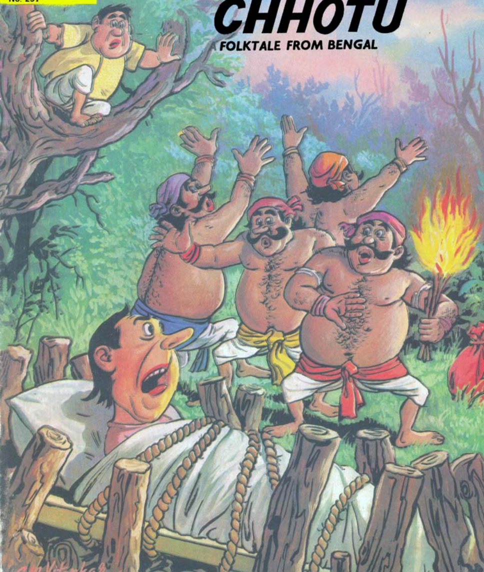
AMAR CHITRA KATHA

No. 251

The adventures of BADDU and CHHOTU

A FOLKTALE FROM BENGAL



Children love to hear stories—so do adults, if the story has relevance to their lives. It is this love which has kept alive for generations stories that have been handed down by an oral tradition.

Every time a story is retold it acquires a new colour and a new dimension. The grandmother who heard a story as a little girl from her grandmother will relish telling it to her grandchildren. A traveller from a distant land, who happens to hear a story during his journey, will later tell it to his own people, modifying it or adding to it little details to suit the change of place and context. This is how stories travel from one part of the world to another and why some stories of Aesop and Vishnu Sharma who wrote the Panchatantra, have much in common.

This Amar Chitra Katha retells one of the most popular folk tales of Bengal.

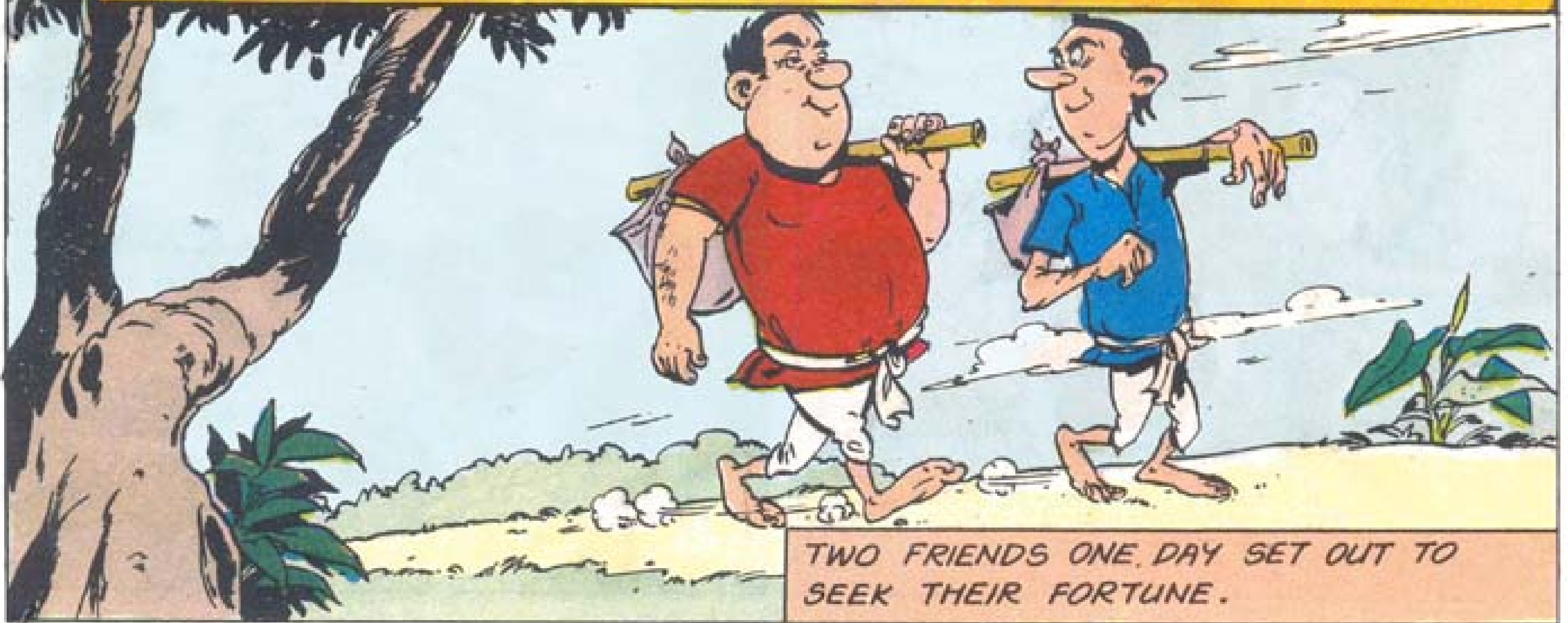
OUR NEXT TITLE:

Karttikeya

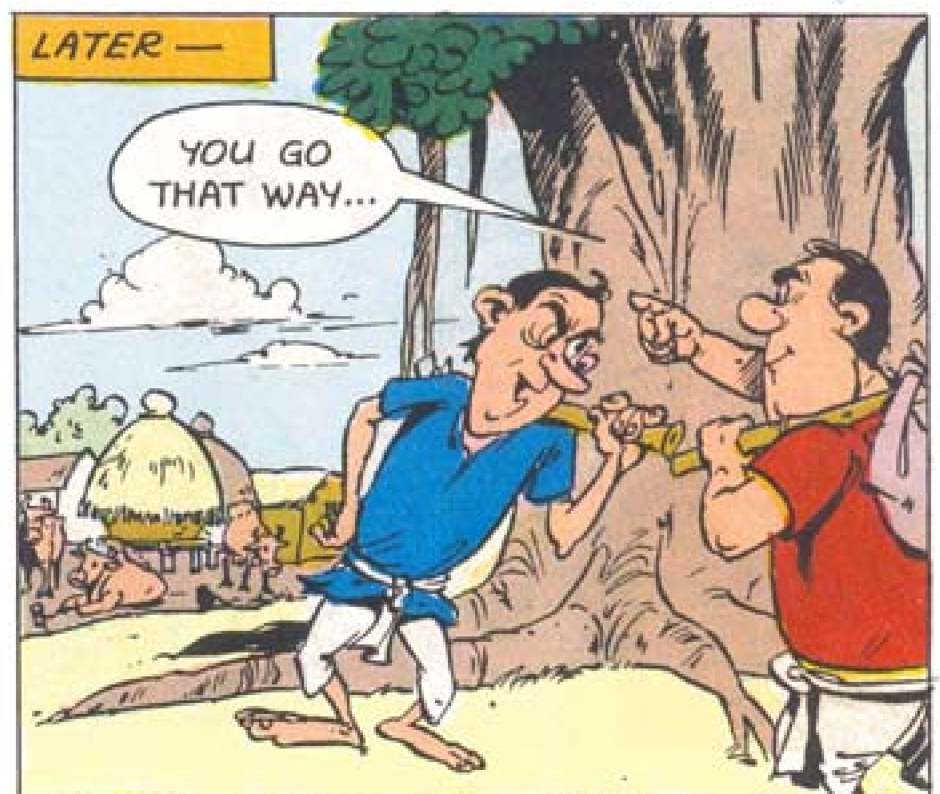
Published by H.G. Mirchandani for India Book House Education Trust, Rusi Mansion, 29 Nathalal Parekh Marg, Bombay 400 039 and printed by him at IBH Printers, Marol Naka, Mathuradas Vissanji Road, Andheri (East), Bombay-400 059.

Editor: Anant Pai Script: Luis M. Fernandes & Rupa Gupta
Artworks: Souren Roy

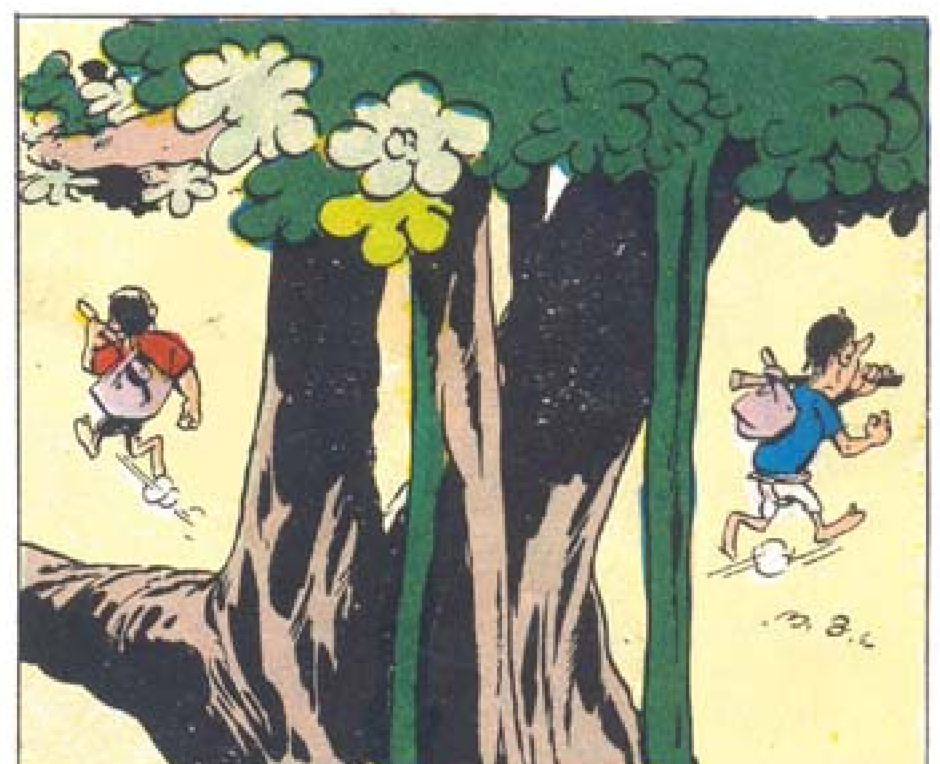
THE ADVENTURES OF BADDU AND CHHOTU







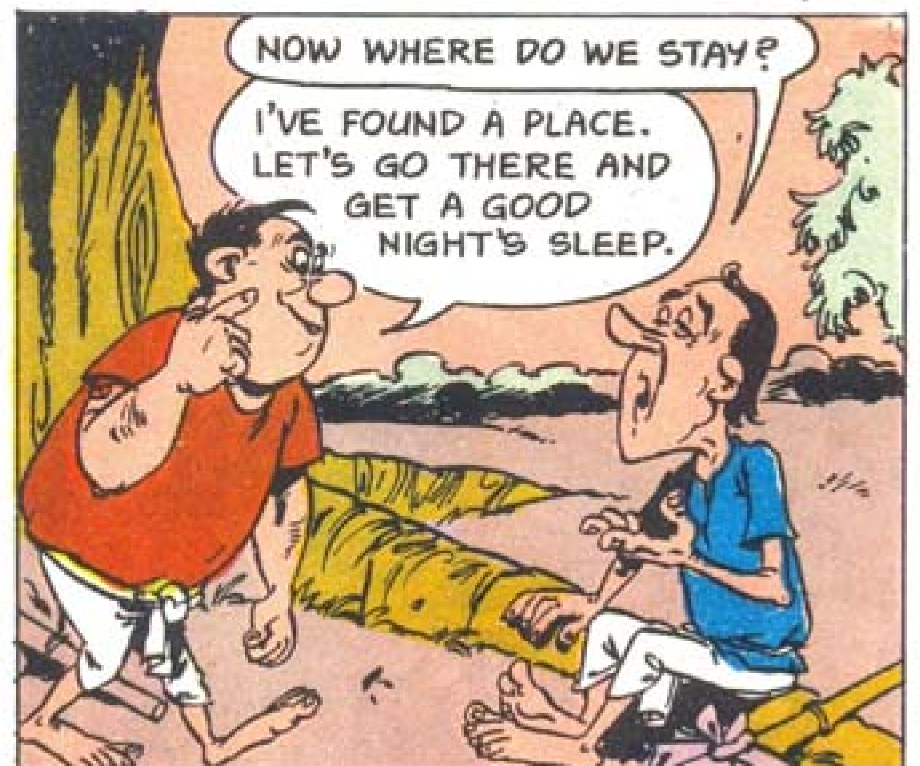




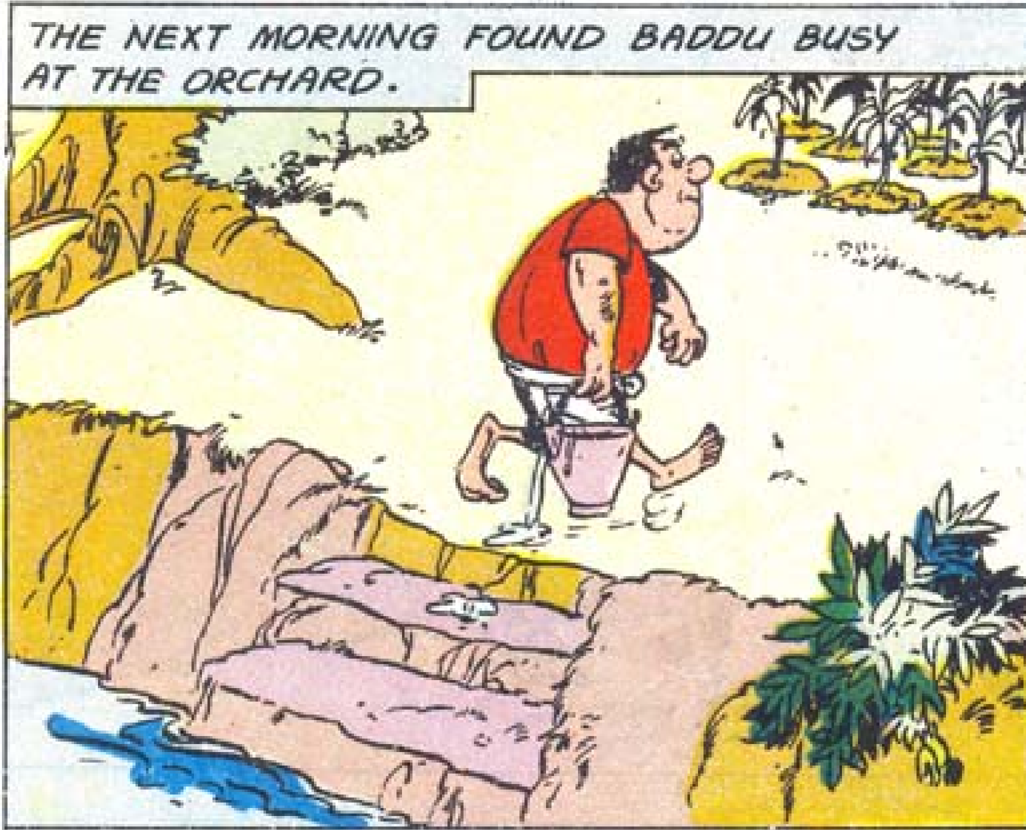

IN THE EVENING —
ANY LUCK?
YES.

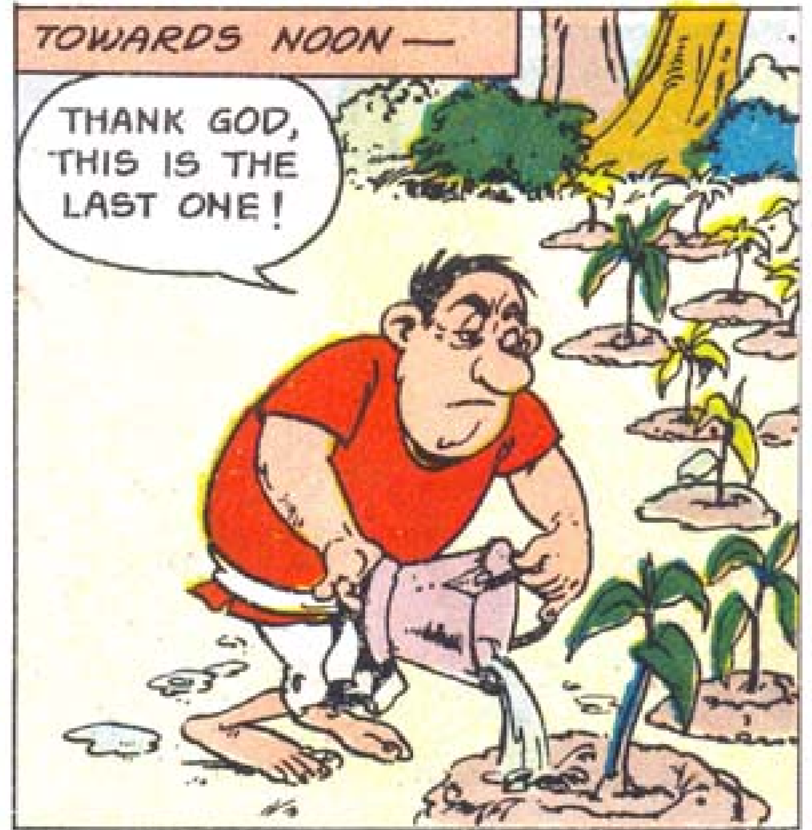

A MAN HAS EMPLOYED ME TO WATER HIS ORCHARD EVERY DAY.
I TOO HAVE HAD SOME LUCK.

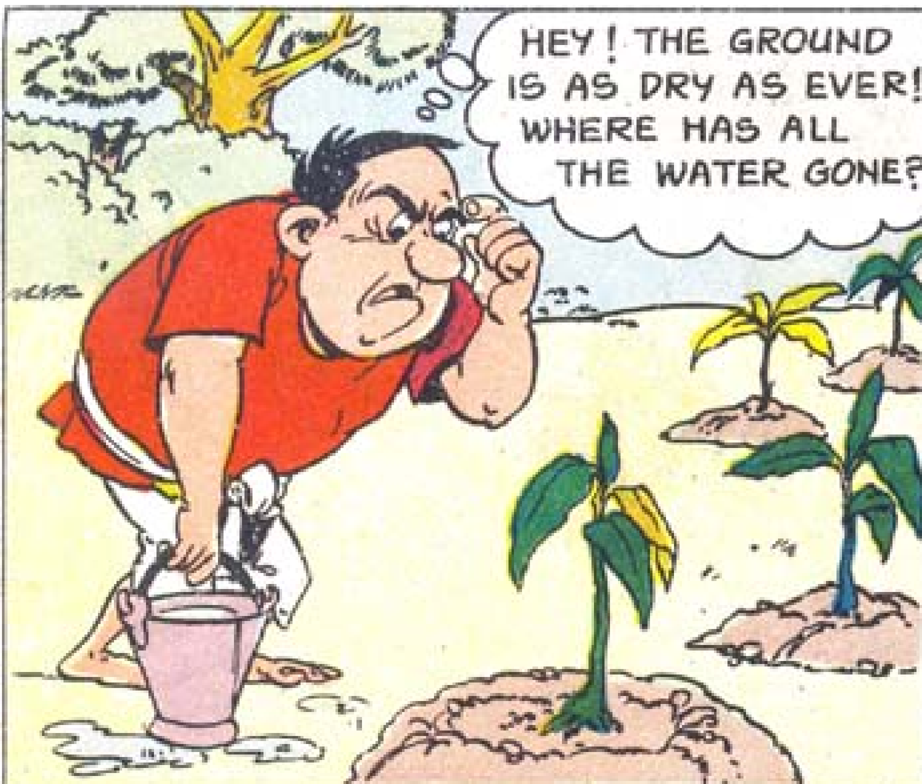

A FARMER HAS HIRED ME TO TAKE HIS COW OUT TO GRAZE.
THAT'S WONDERFUL!

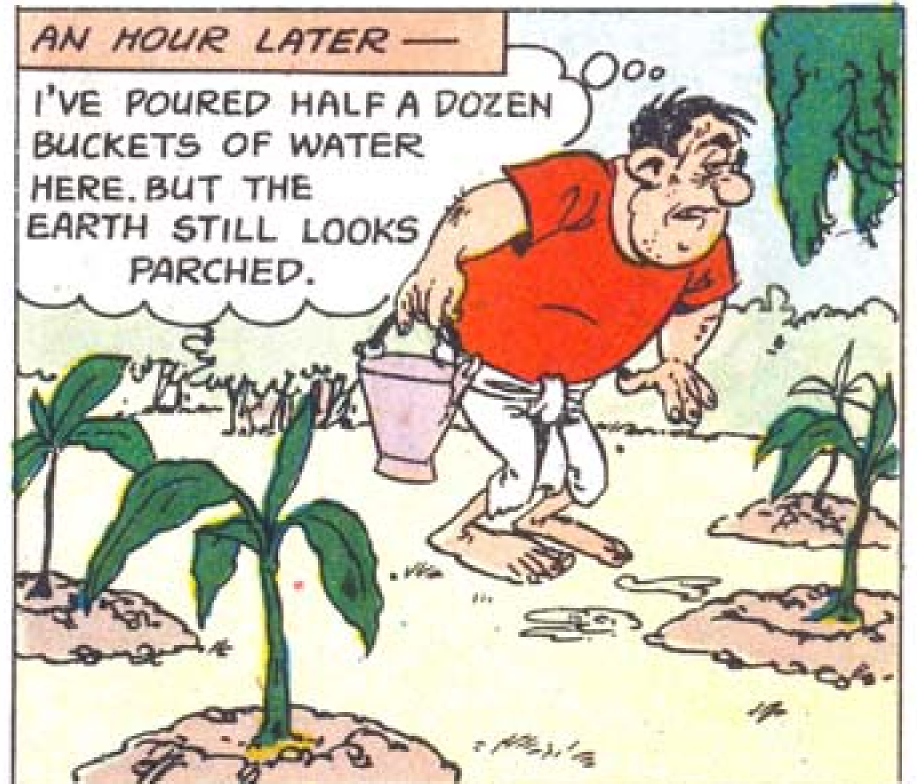

NOW WHERE DO WE STAY?
I'VE FOUND A PLACE. LET'S GO THERE AND GET A GOOD NIGHT'S SLEEP.


LATER —
OUR NEW HOME!


THE NEXT MORNING FOUND BADDU BUSY AT THE ORCHARD.

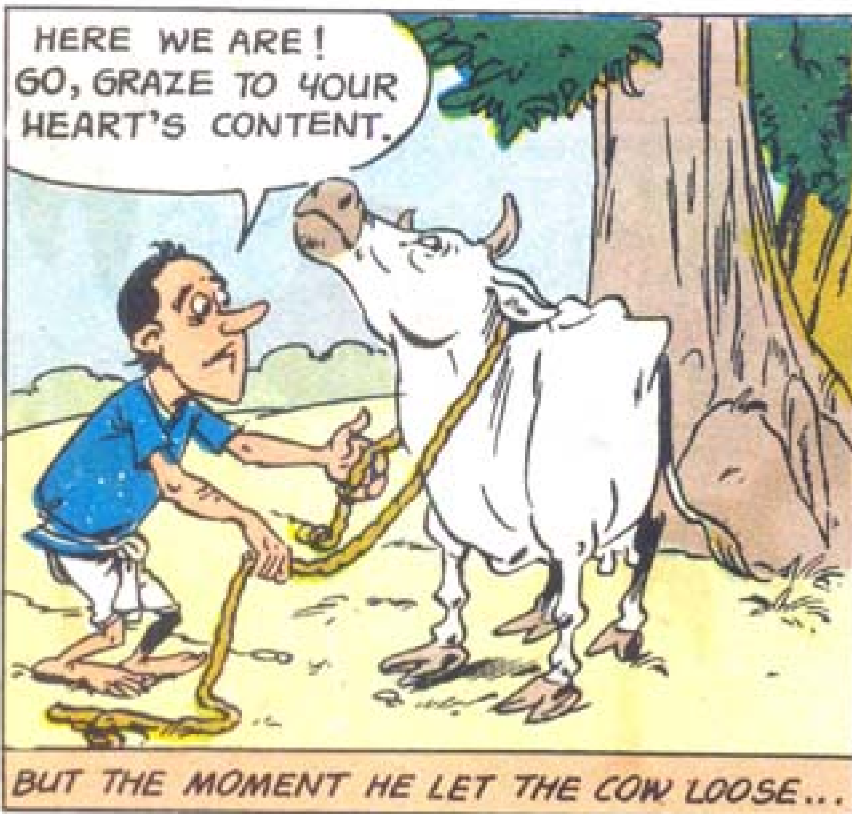

TOWARDS NOON —
THANK GOD, THIS IS THE LAST ONE!

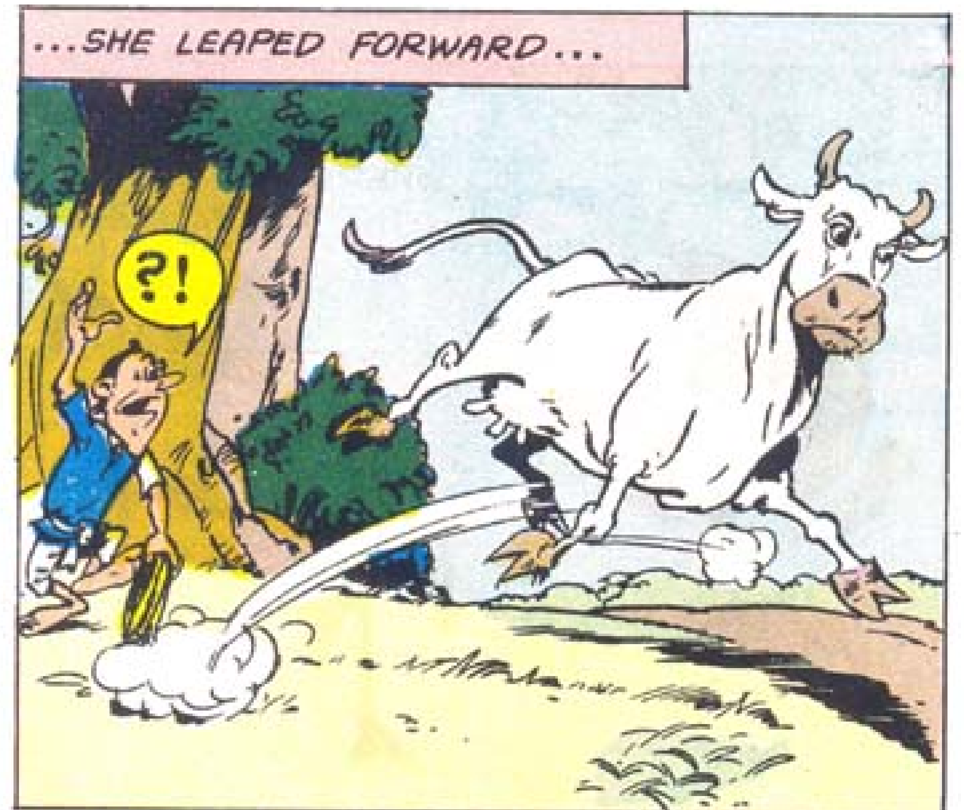

HEY! THE GROUND IS AS DRY AS EVER! WHERE HAS ALL THE WATER GONE?

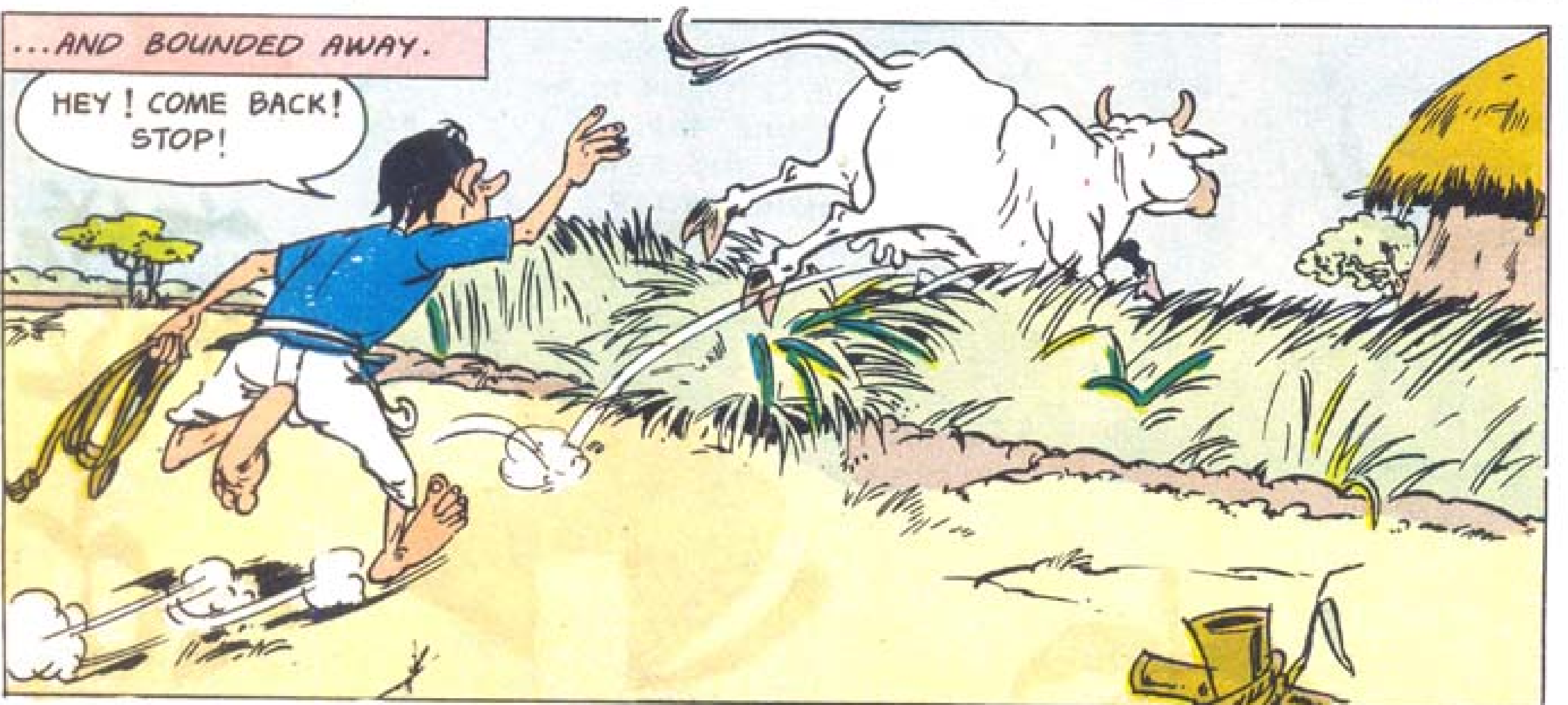

AN HOUR LATER —
I'VE POURED HALF A DOZEN BUCKETS OF WATER HERE. BUT THE EARTH STILL LOOKS PARCHED.

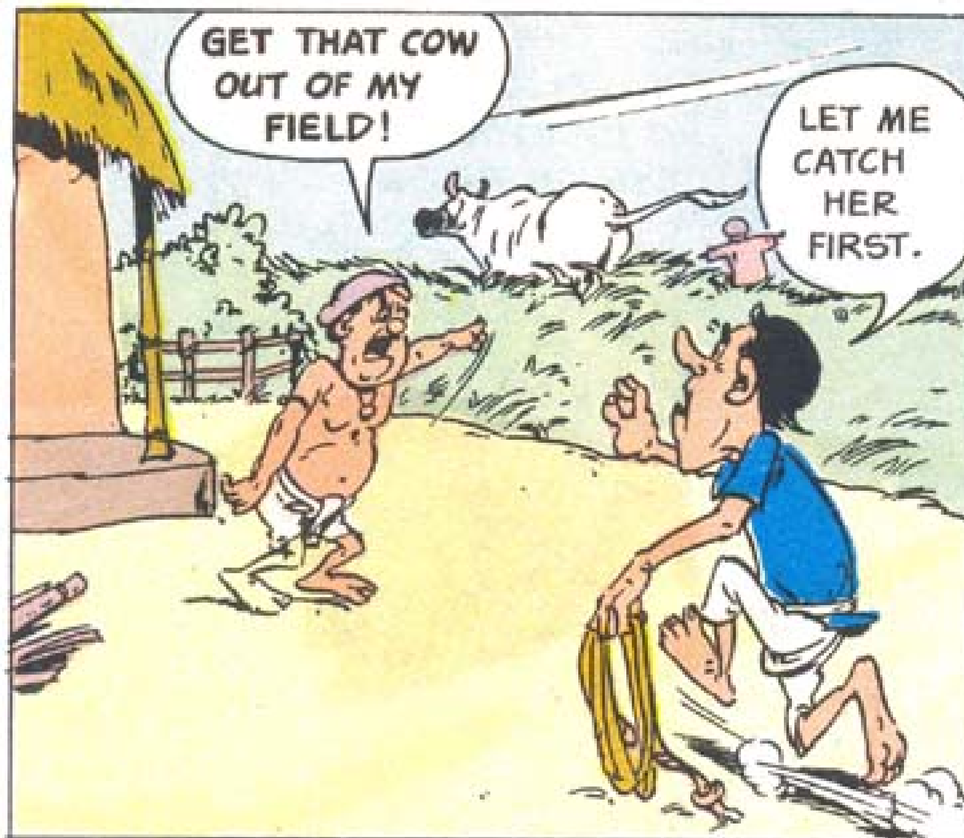

IF THE MASTER COMES AROUND, HE'LL THINK I HAVEN'T WATERED THIS SAPLING. I'D BETTER GO AND FETCH SOME MORE WATER.

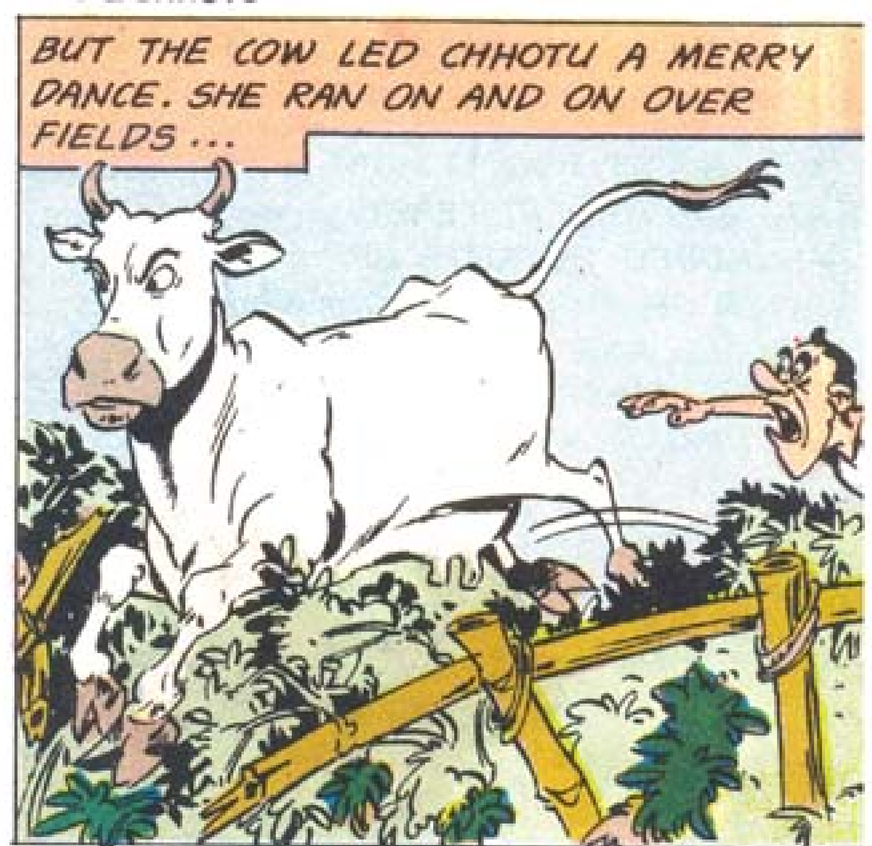

MEANWHILE AT THE OTHER END OF THE VILLAGE —
WHAT AN EASY JOB. I'VE GOT. I'LL LET THIS COW LOOSE IN THE MEADOW AND THEN I'LL HAVE A SHORT NAP UNDER A TREE.

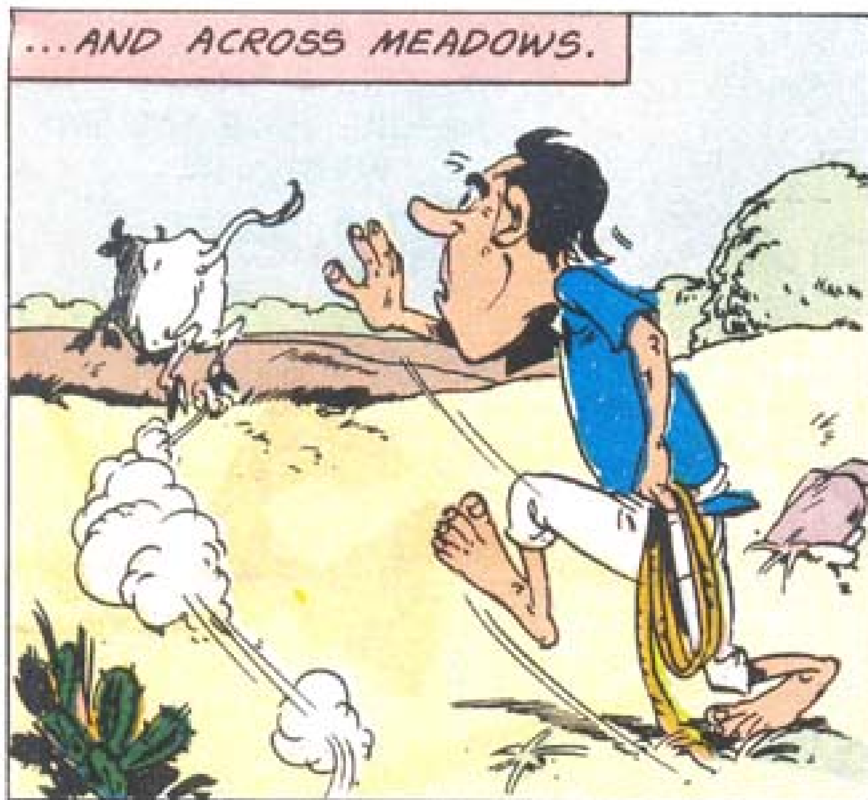

HERE WE ARE! GO, GRAZE TO YOUR HEART'S CONTENT.
BUT THE MOMENT HE LET THE COW LOOSE...

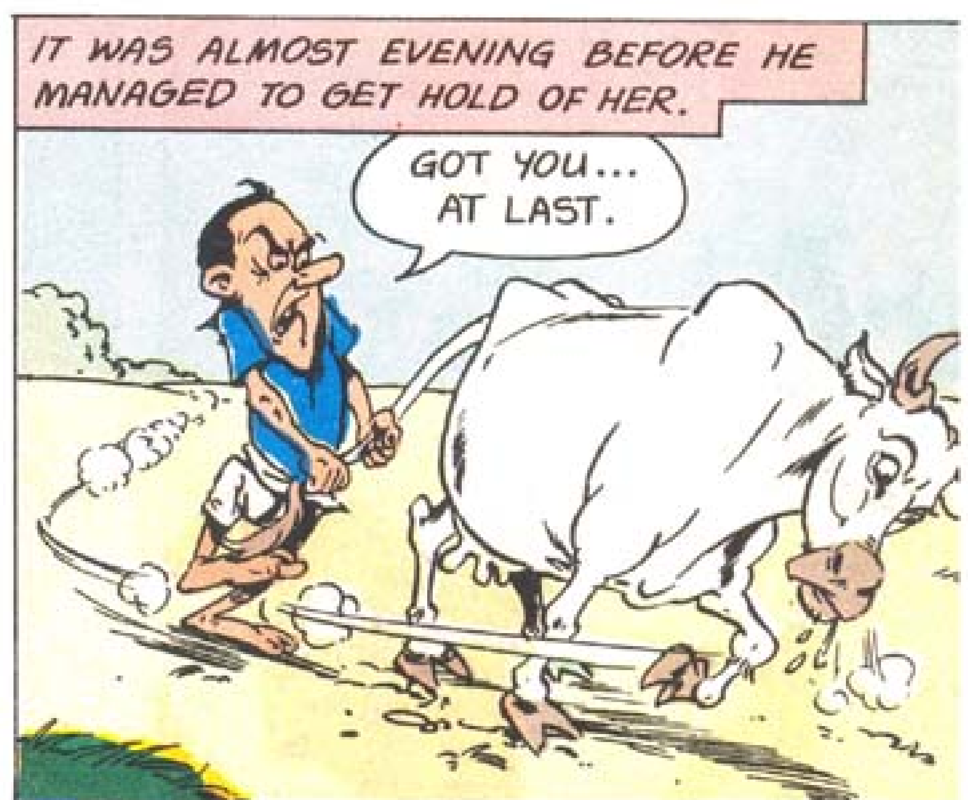

...SHE LEAPED FORWARD...
?!

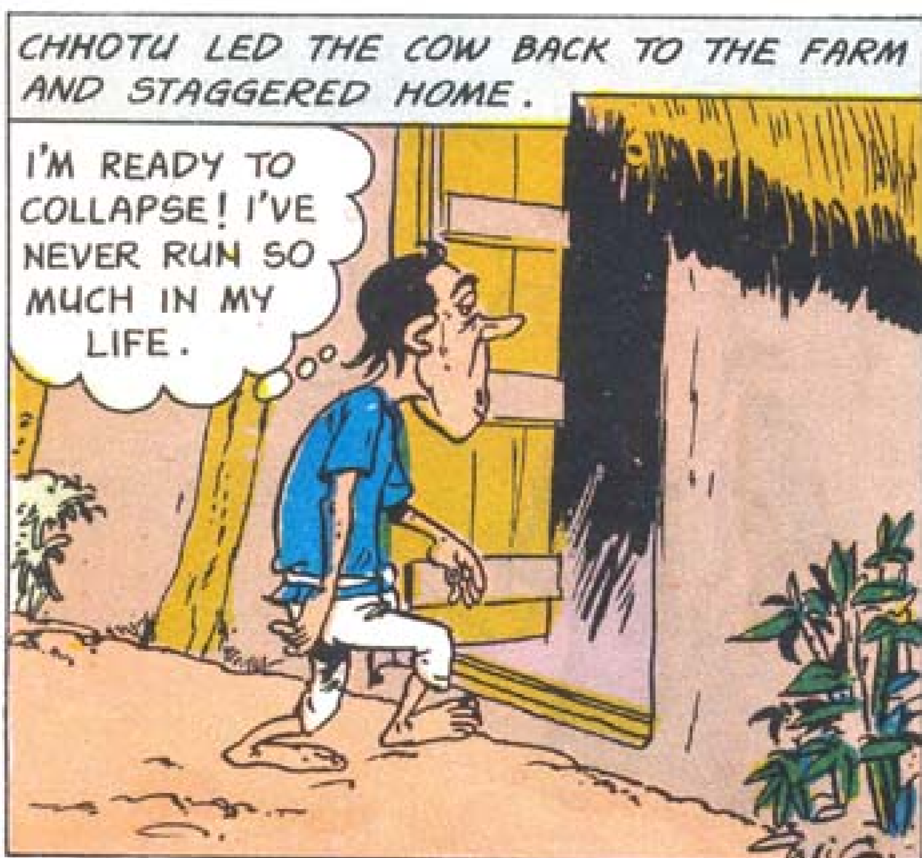

...AND BOUNDED AWAY.
HEY! COME BACK! STOP!

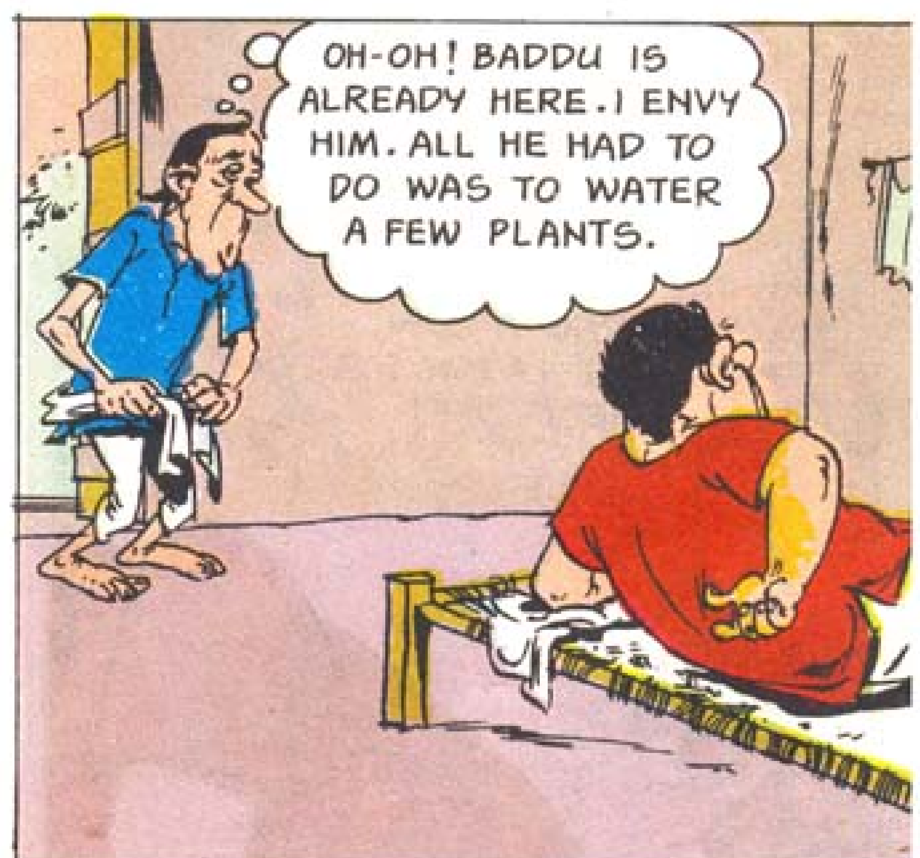

GET THAT COW OUT OF MY FIELD!
LET ME CATCH HER FIRST.


BUT THE COW LED CHHOTU A MERRY DANCE. SHE RAN ON AND ON OVER FIELDS ...


... AND ACROSS MEADOWS.


IT WAS ALMOST EVENING BEFORE HE MANAGED TO GET HOLD OF HER.
GOT YOU... AT LAST.

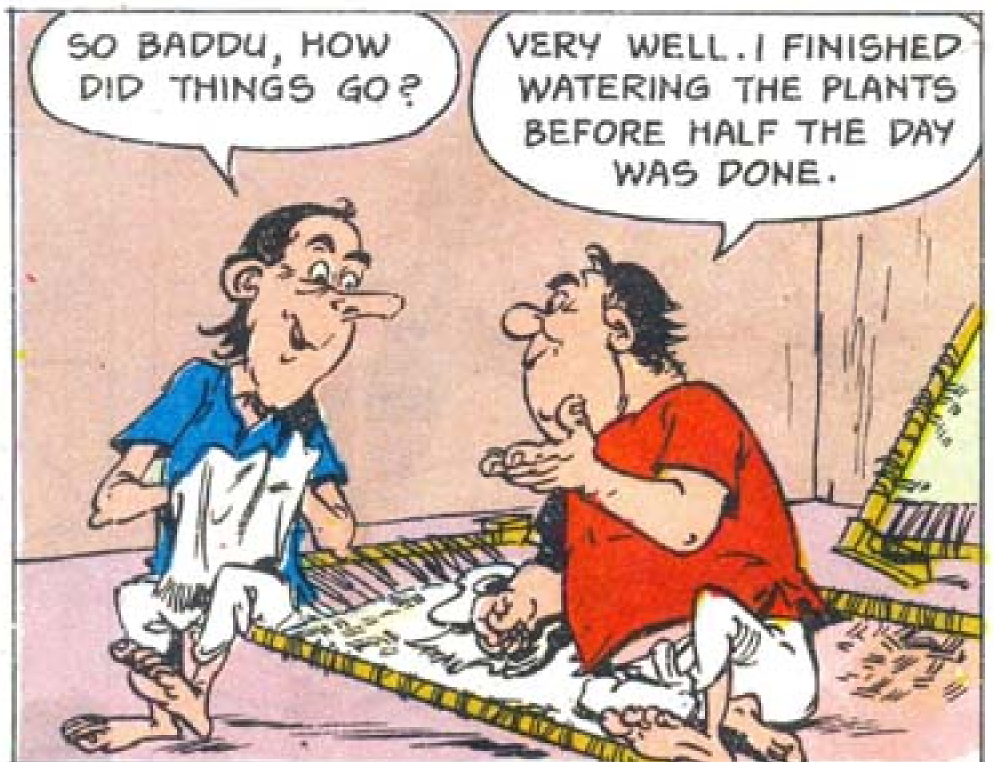

CHHOTU LED THE COW BACK TO THE FARM AND STAGGERED HOME.
I'M READY TO COLLAPSE! I'VE NEVER RUN SO MUCH IN MY LIFE.


OH-OH! BADDU IS ALREADY HERE. I ENVY HIM. ALL HE HAD TO DO WAS TO WATER A FEW PLANTS.

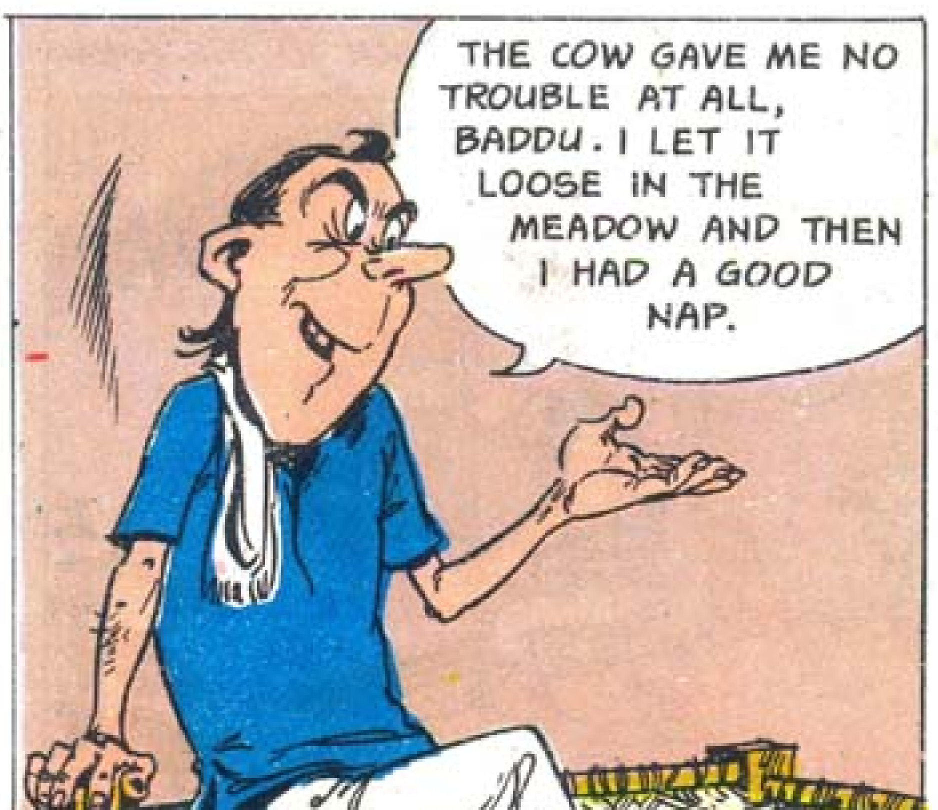

LITTLE DID HE KNOW THAT BADDU WAS AS EXHAUSTED AS HE WAS.
OOOOH! MY BACK! I MUST HAVE EMPTIED AT LEAST A HUNDRED BUCKETS OF WATER ON THAT MANGO SAPLING. AND I'LL HAVE TO DO IT AGAIN TOMORROW!

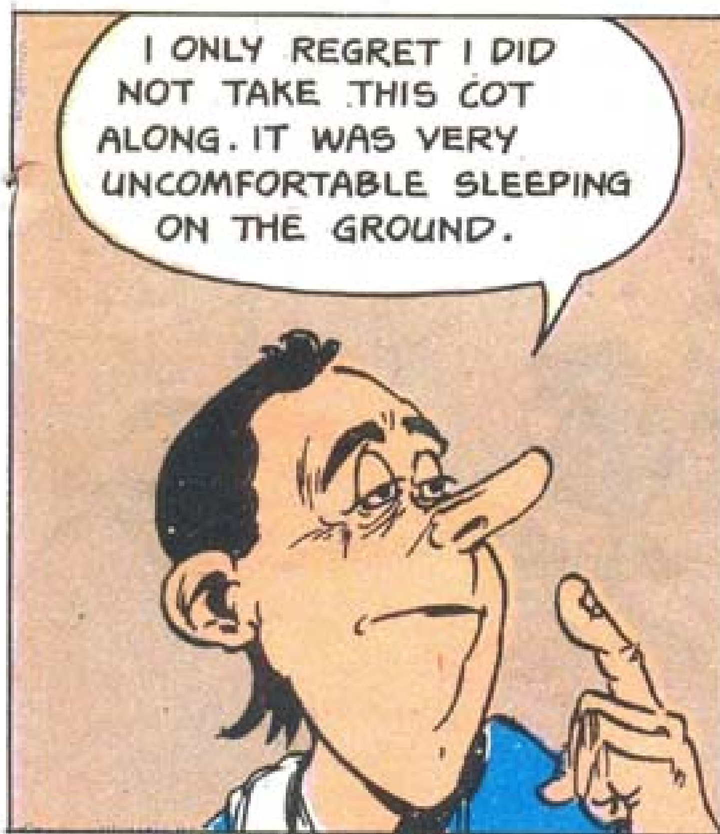

LUCKY CHHOTU. ALL THAT THE FELLOW HAS TO DO IS TO KEEP AN EYE ON A COW.

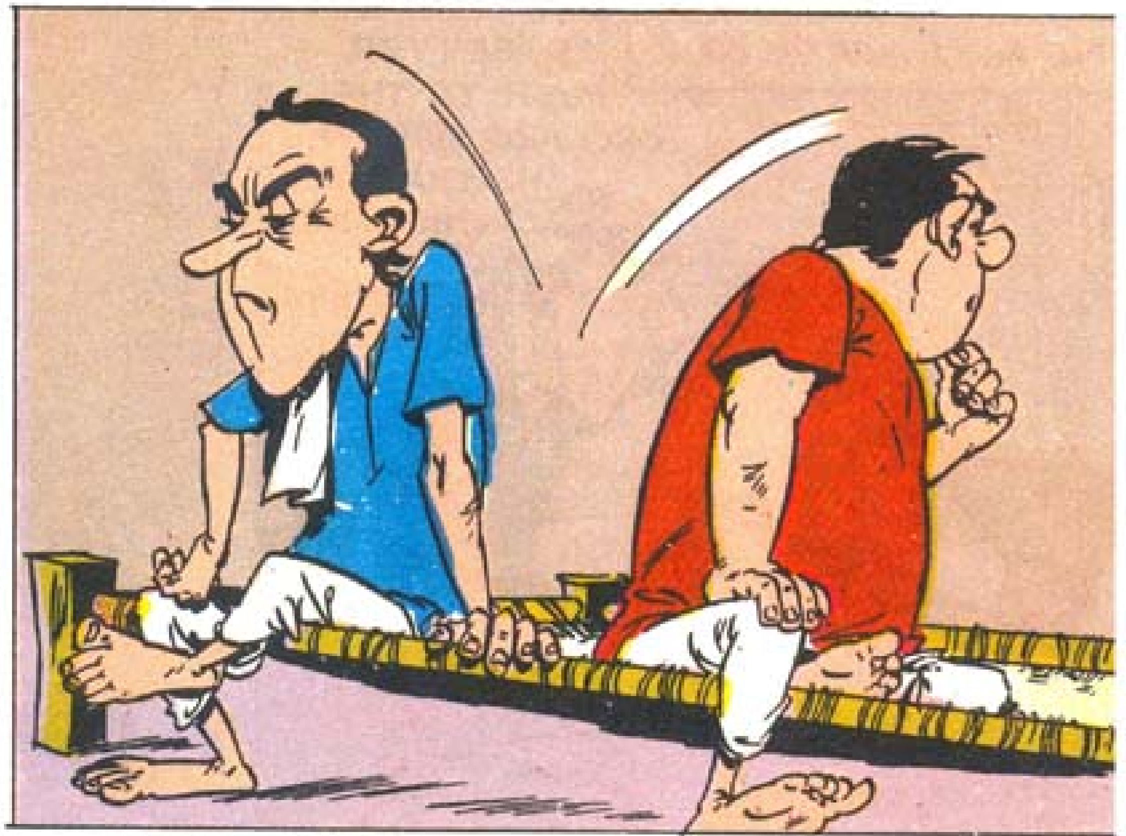

I'D BETTER NOT TELL HIM HOW HARD I HAVE TO WORK. HE'LL LAUGH HIS HEAD OFF... OH! HE'S BACK.

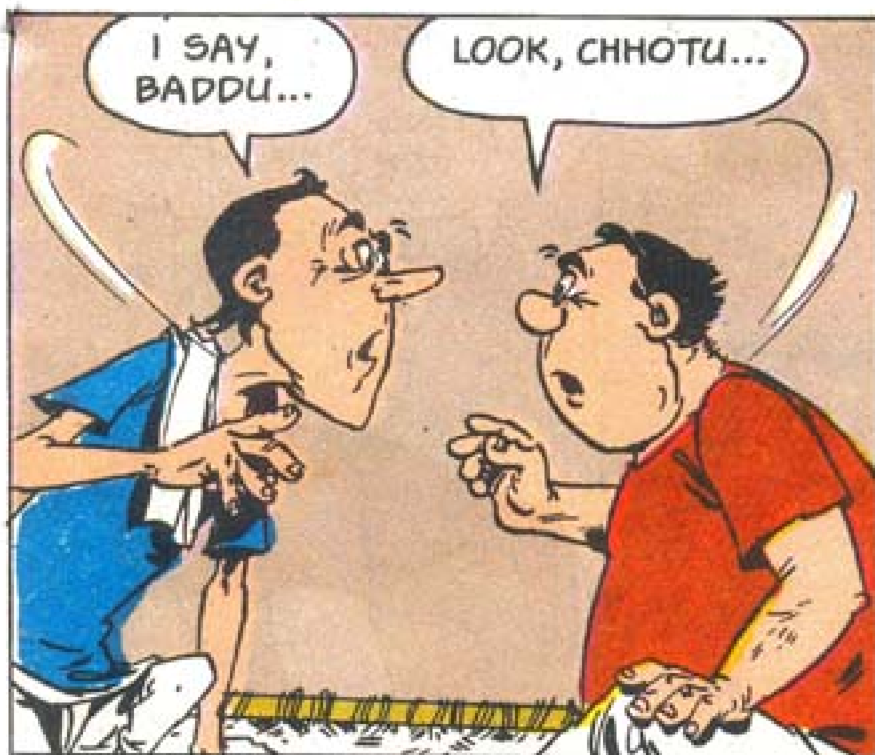

SO BADDU, HOW DID THINGS GO?
VERY WELL. I FINISHED WATERING THE PLANTS BEFORE HALF THE DAY WAS DONE.


AND THEN I LAZED AROUND TILL EVENING. HOW WAS IT WITH YOU?
IF I TELL HIM I SPENT THE WHOLE DAY CHASING A COW, HE'LL LAUGH HIS HEAD OFF!

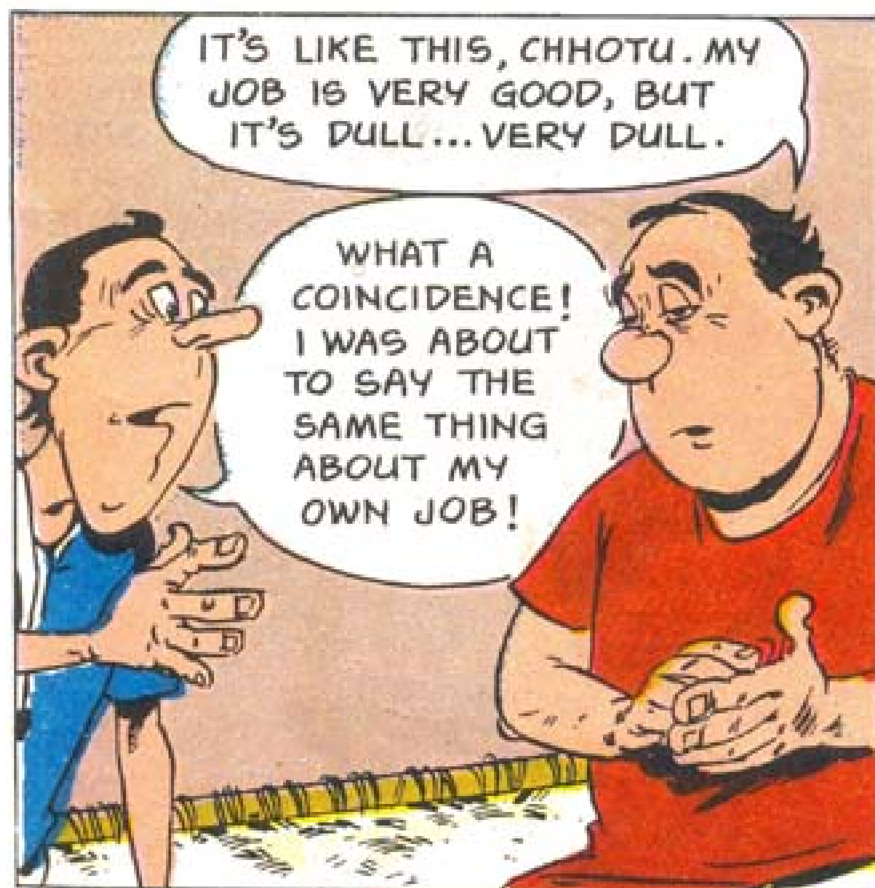

THE COW GAVE ME NO TROUBLE AT ALL, BADDU. I LET IT LOOSE IN THE MEADOW AND THEN I HAD A GOOD NAP.


I ONLY REGRET I DID NOT TAKE THIS COT ALONG. IT WAS VERY UNCOMFORTABLE SLEEPING ON THE GROUND.

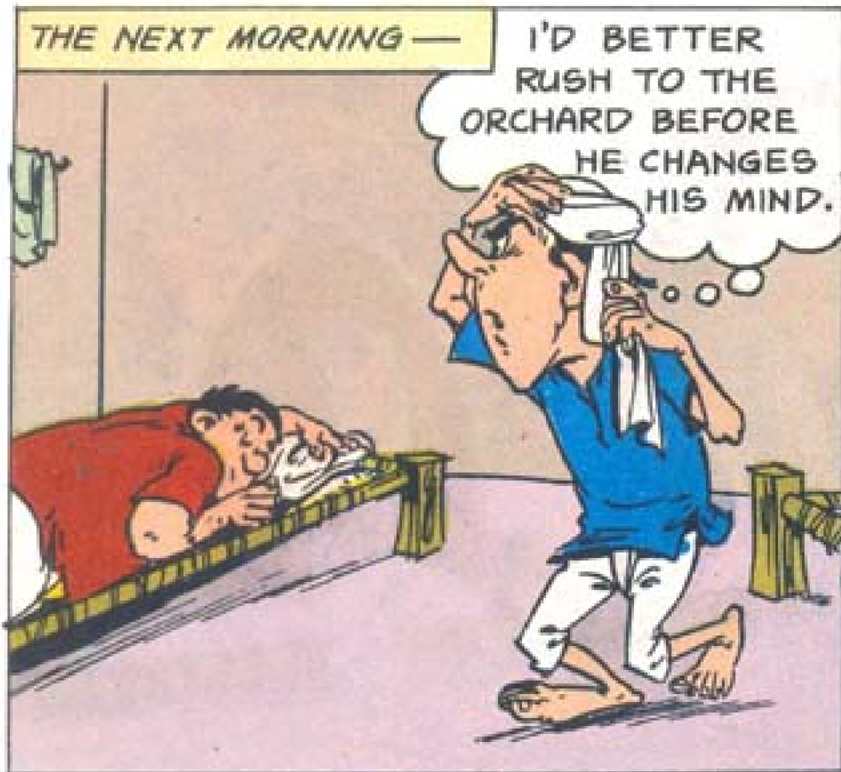


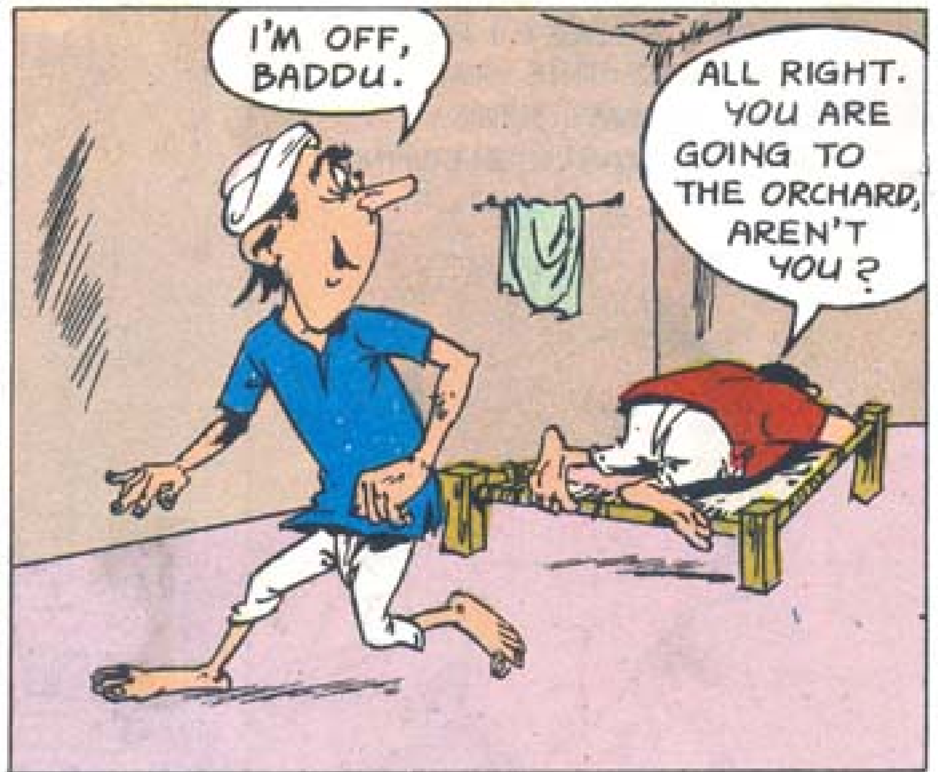

I SAY, BADDU...
LOOK, CHHOTU...

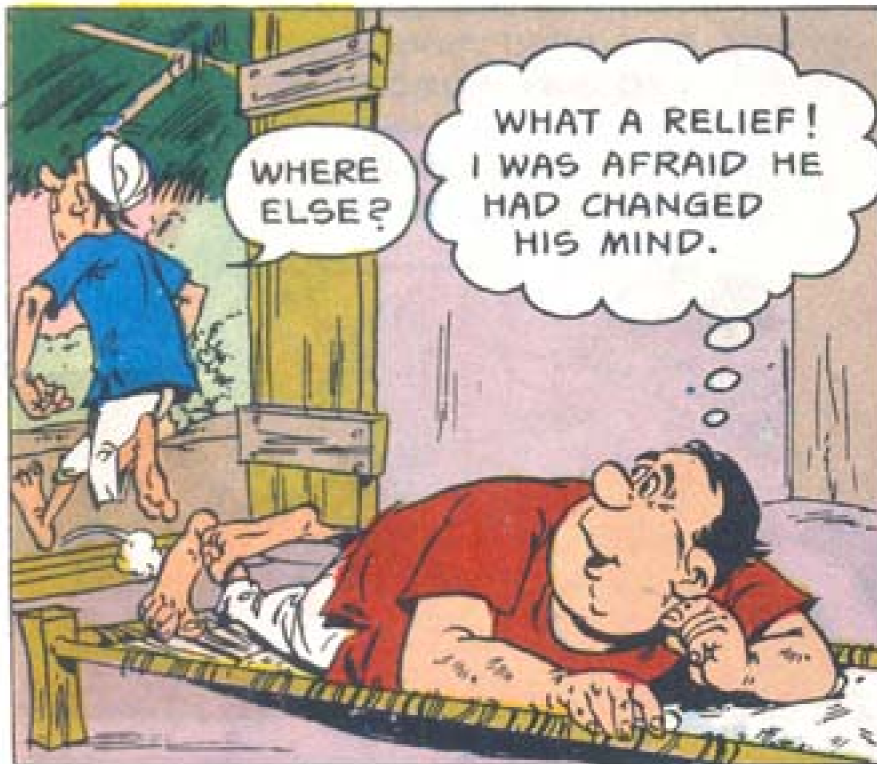

ER... WERE YOU GOING TO SAY SOMETHING?
NO, NO, WHAT WERE YOU GOING TO SAY?


IT'S LIKE THIS, CHHOTU. MY JOB IS VERY GOOD, BUT IT'S DULL... VERY DULL.
WHAT A COINCIDENCE! I WAS ABOUT TO SAY THE SAME THING ABOUT MY OWN JOB!


PERHAPS EACH WOULD BE HAPPIER DOING THE OTHER'S WORK.
YES, LET'S EXCHANGE JOBS.


THE NEXT MORNING —
I'D BETTER RUSH TO THE ORCHARD BEFORE HE CHANGES HIS MIND.

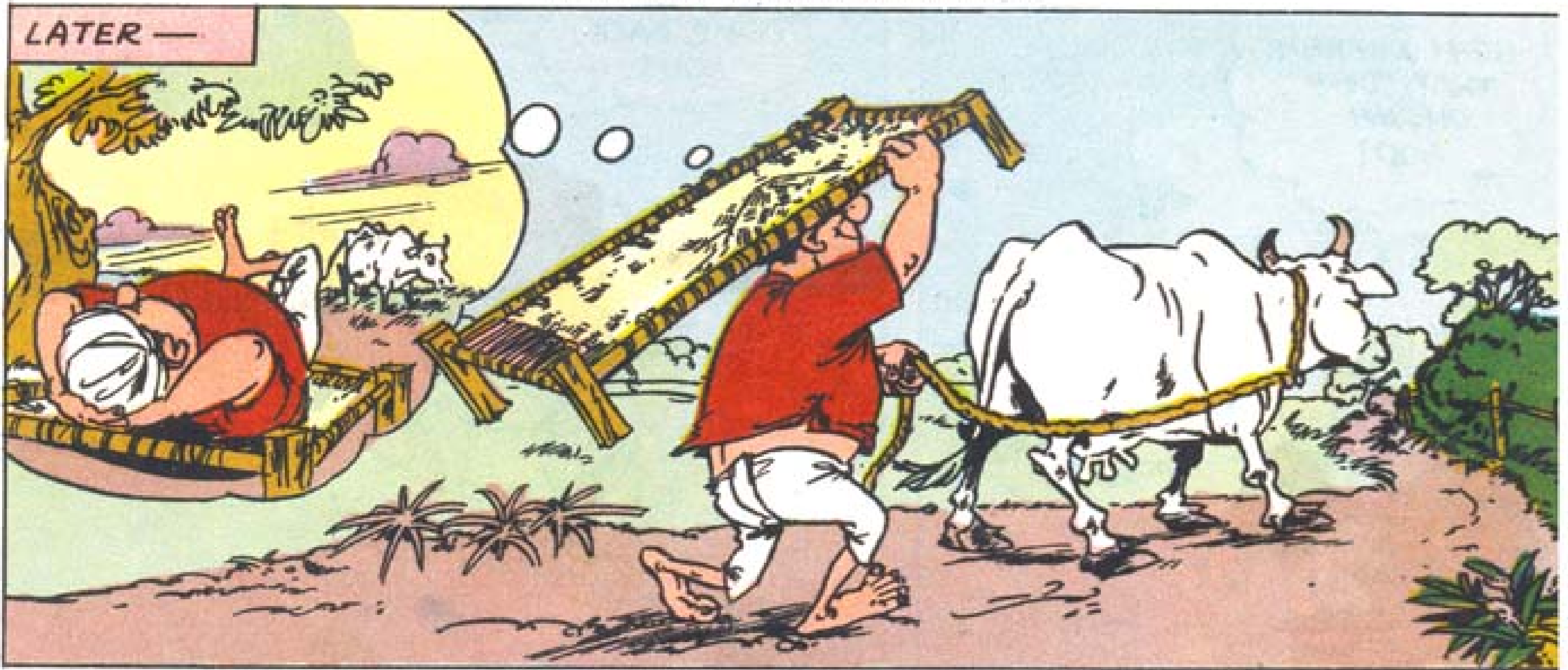

I'M OFF, BADDU.
ALL RIGHT. YOU ARE GOING TO THE ORCHARD, AREN'T YOU ?


WHERE ELSE?
WHAT A RELIEF! I WAS AFRAID HE HAD CHANGED HIS MIND.


THE POOR FELLOW DOESN'T KNOW WHAT HE'S LETTING HIMSELF IN FOR.

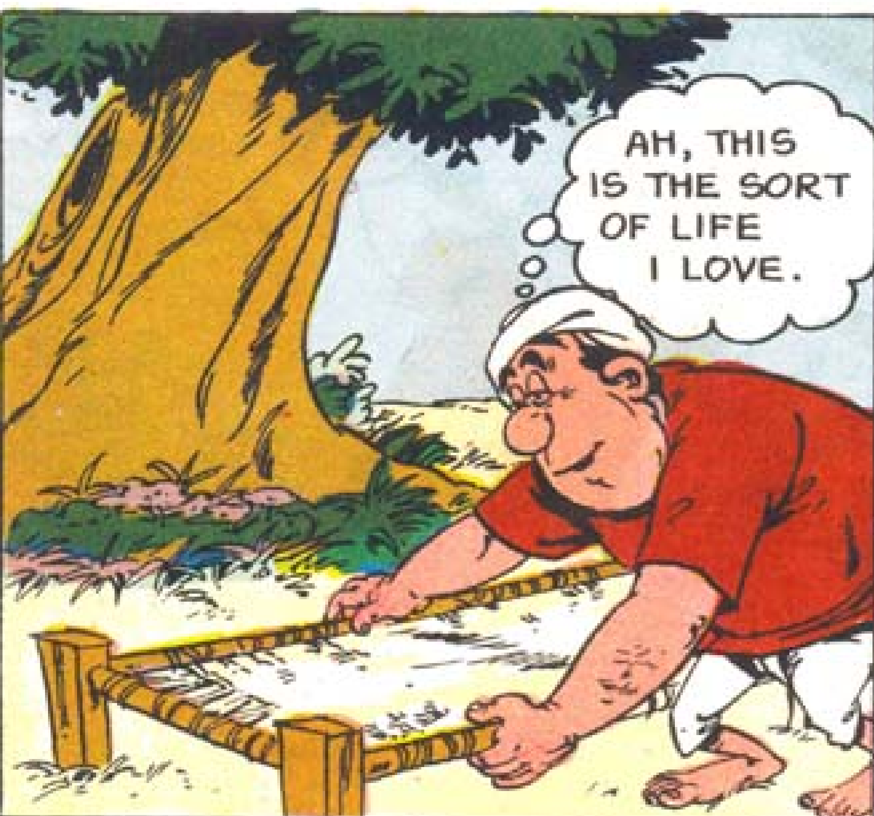

ANYWAY, I WON'T MAKE THE SAME MISTAKE HE DID.

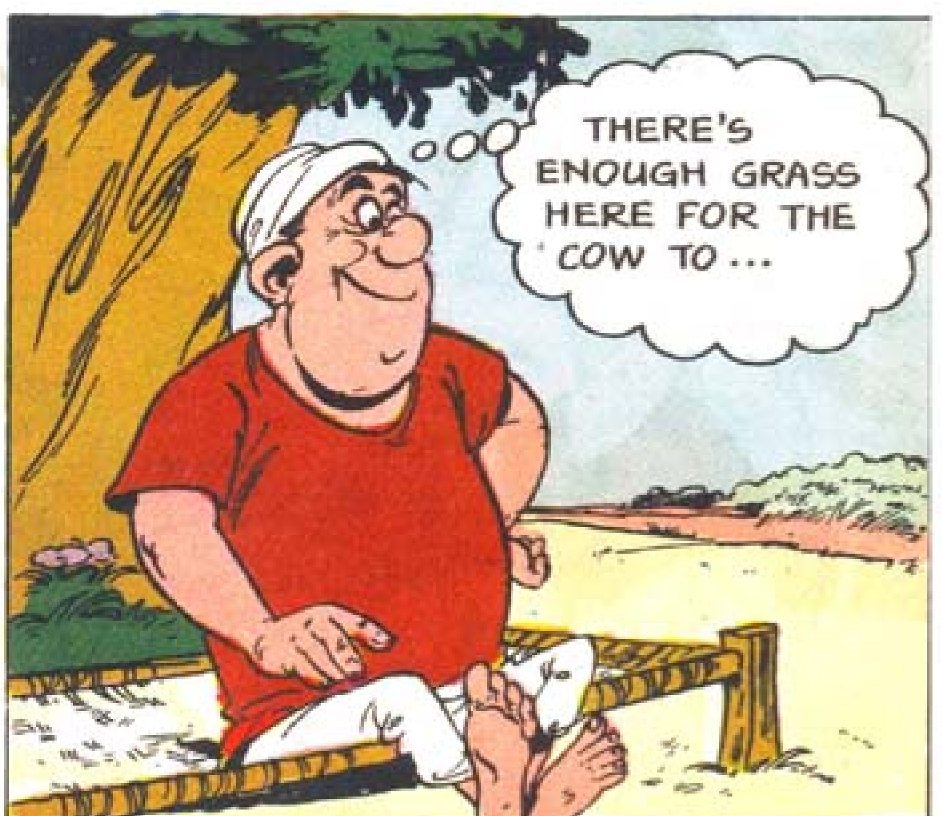

I'LL TAKE THIS COT WITH ME SO THAT I DON'T HAVE TO SLEEP ON THE GROUND.

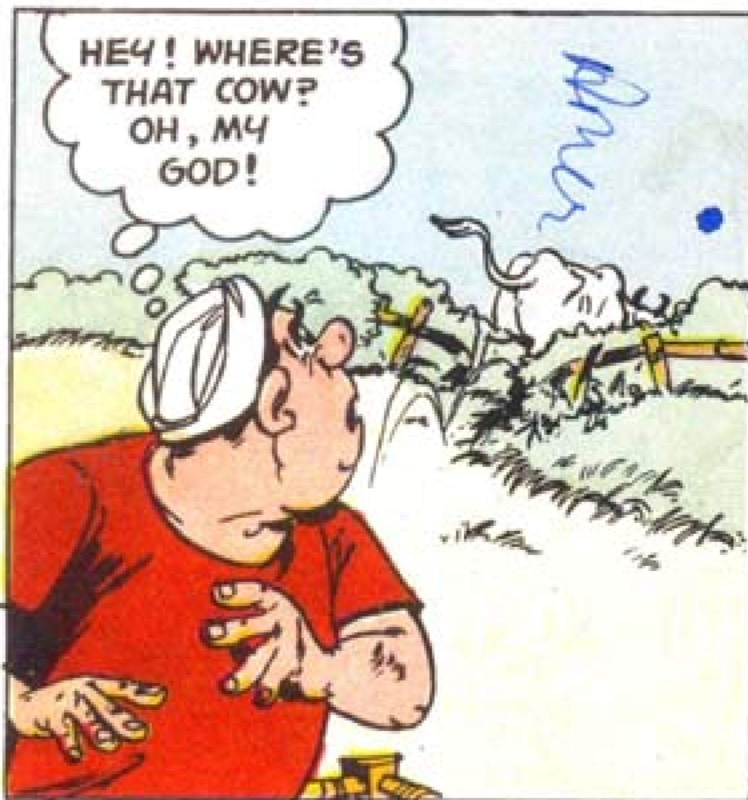

LATER —


WHEN HE GOT TO THE MEADOW —
GO! GO EAT AS MUCH AS YOU WANT...


...WHILE I GET SOME SLEEP.


AH, THIS IS THE SORT OF LIFE I LOVE.


THERE'S ENOUGH GRASS HERE FOR THE COW TO...


HEY! WHERE'S THAT COW? OH, MY GOD!

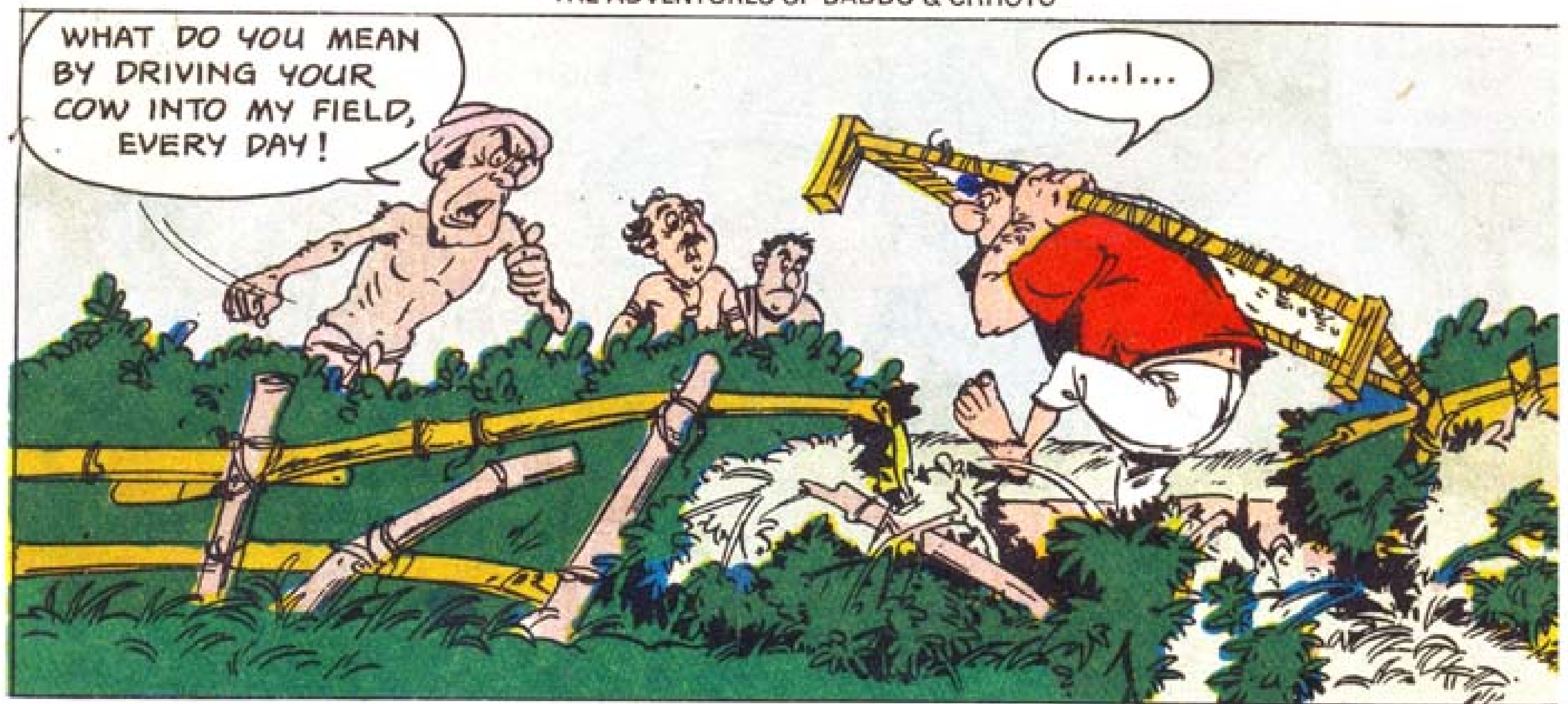

COME BACK, YOU!

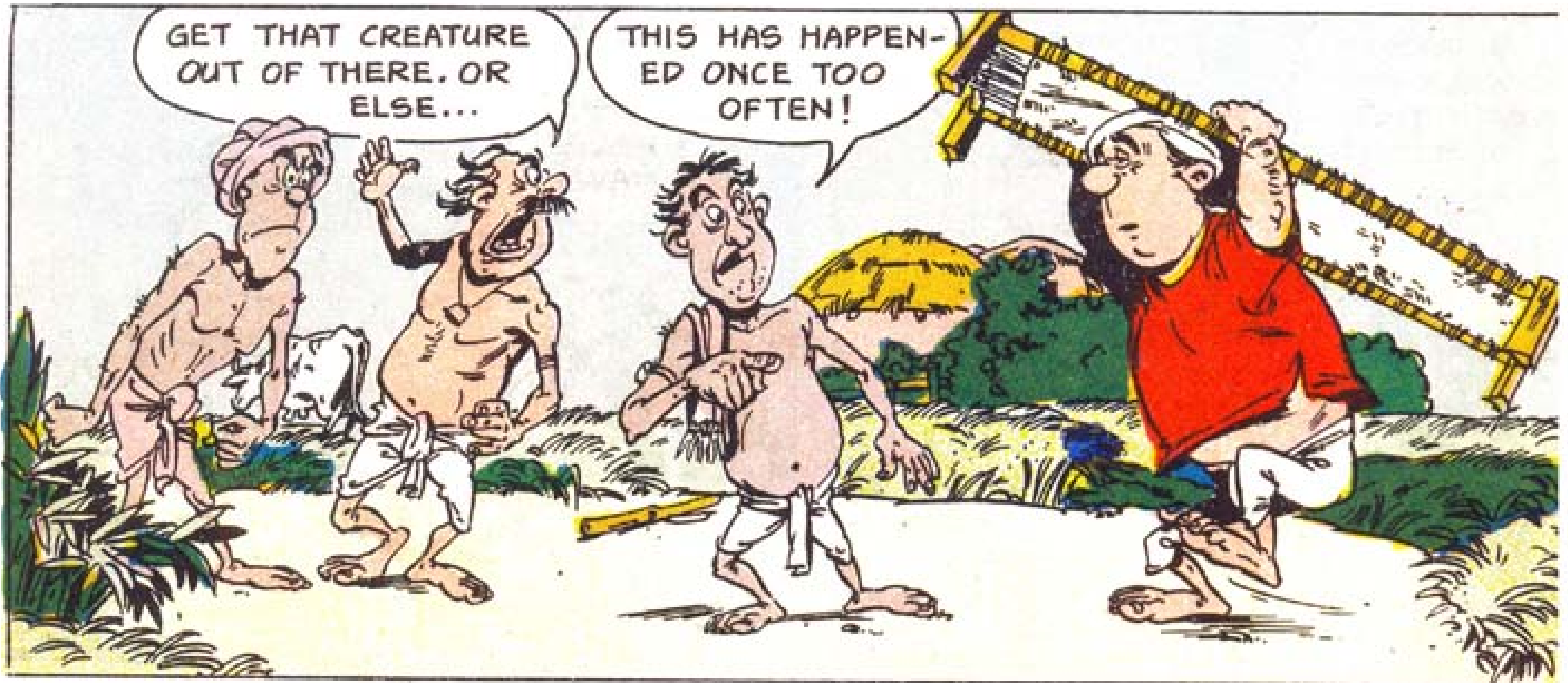

IF I LEAVE THAT COT BEHIND SOMEONE IS LIKELY TO STEAL IT.

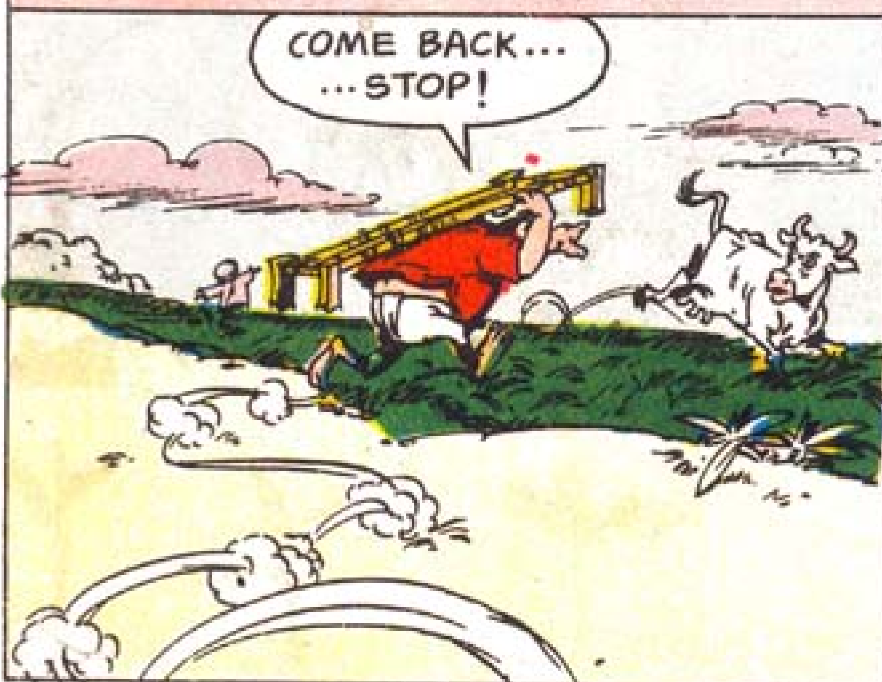

HEY, YOU! GET **THAT** COW OUT OF MY FIELD!
YES, YES!

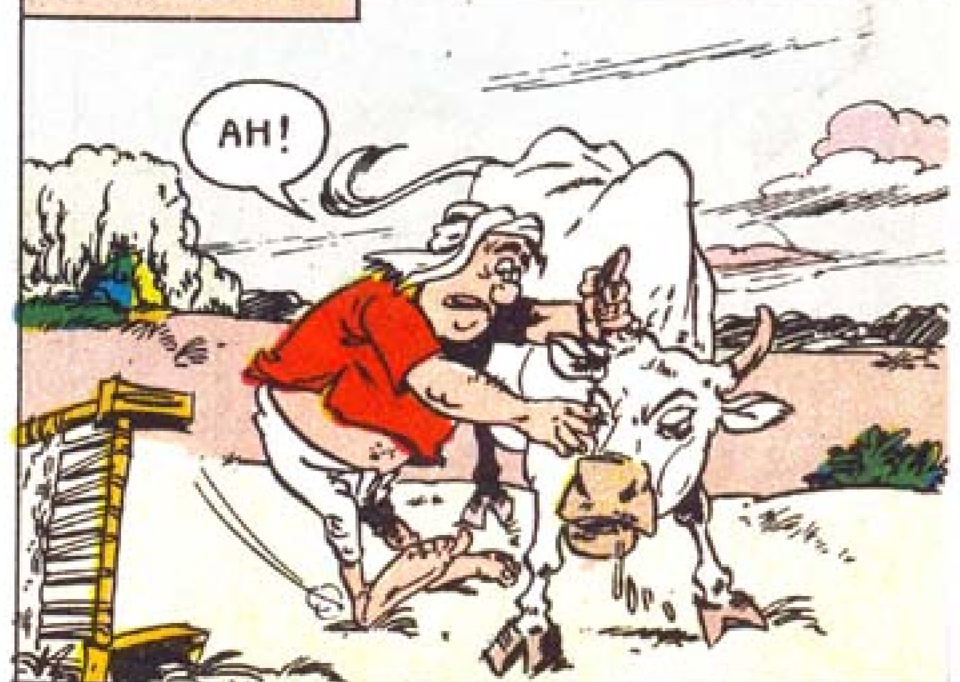

OH, THIS IS TERRIBLE!

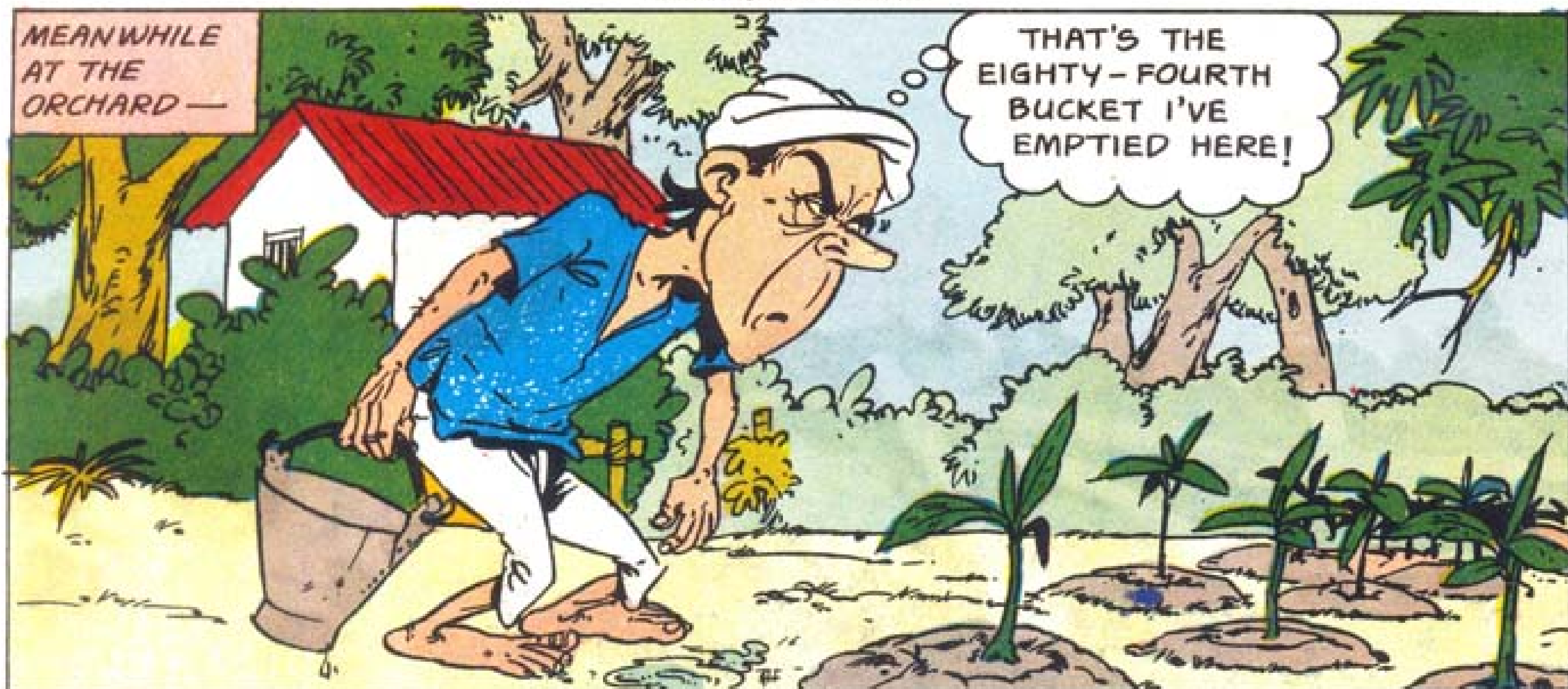

COME BACK, YOU STUPID CREATURE! COME BACK!


WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY DRIVING YOUR COW INTO MY FIELD, EVERY DAY!
I...I...

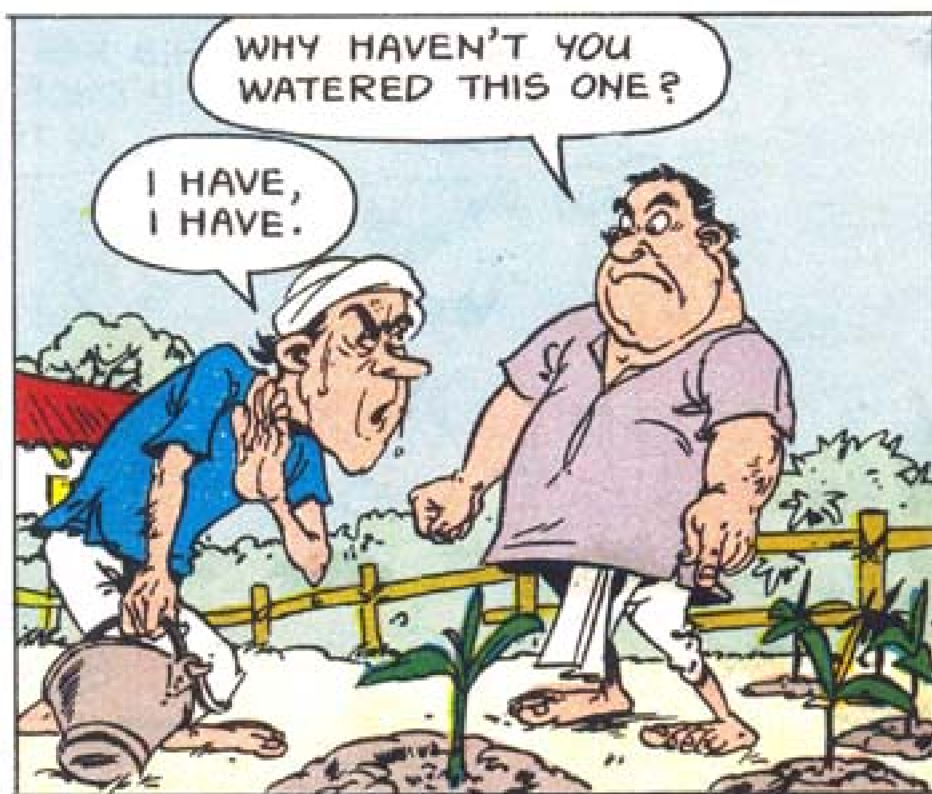

GET THAT CREATURE OUT OF THERE. OR ELSE...
THIS HAS HAPPEN-ED ONCE TOO OFTEN!


BADDU, AS CHHOTU HAD DONE THE PREVIOUS DAY, CHASED THE COW ALL OVER THE COUNTRYSIDE.
COME BACK... ...STOP!

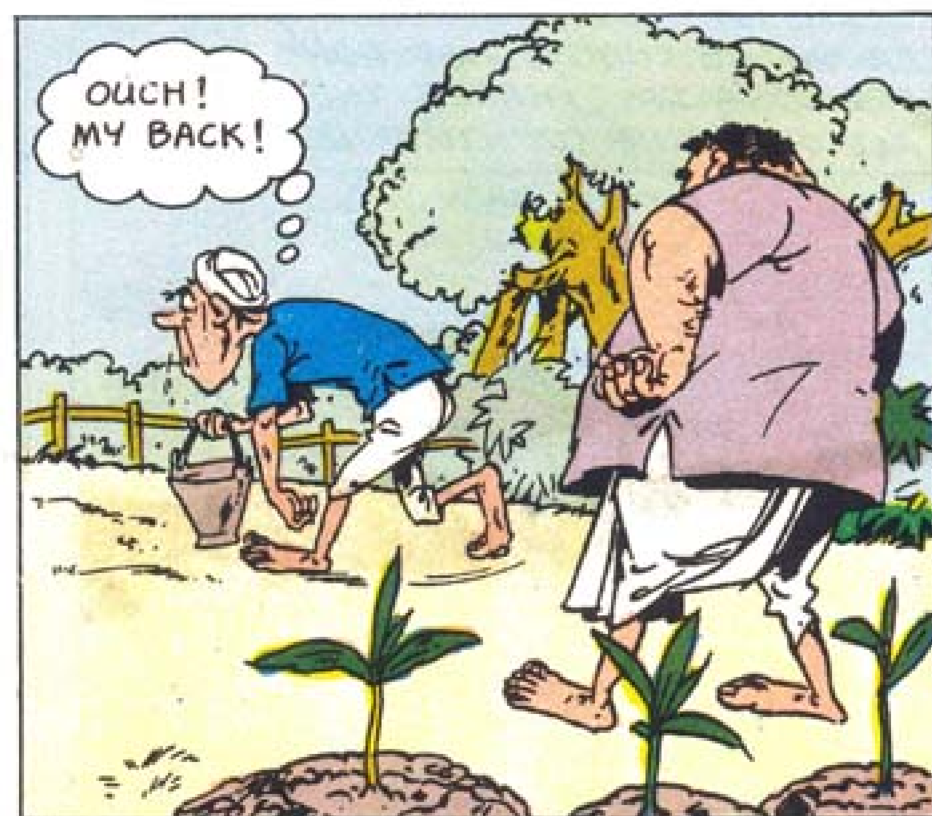

AND IT WAS ONLY TOWARDS EVENING THAT HE WAS FINALLY ABLE TO CATCH UP WITH IT.
AH!

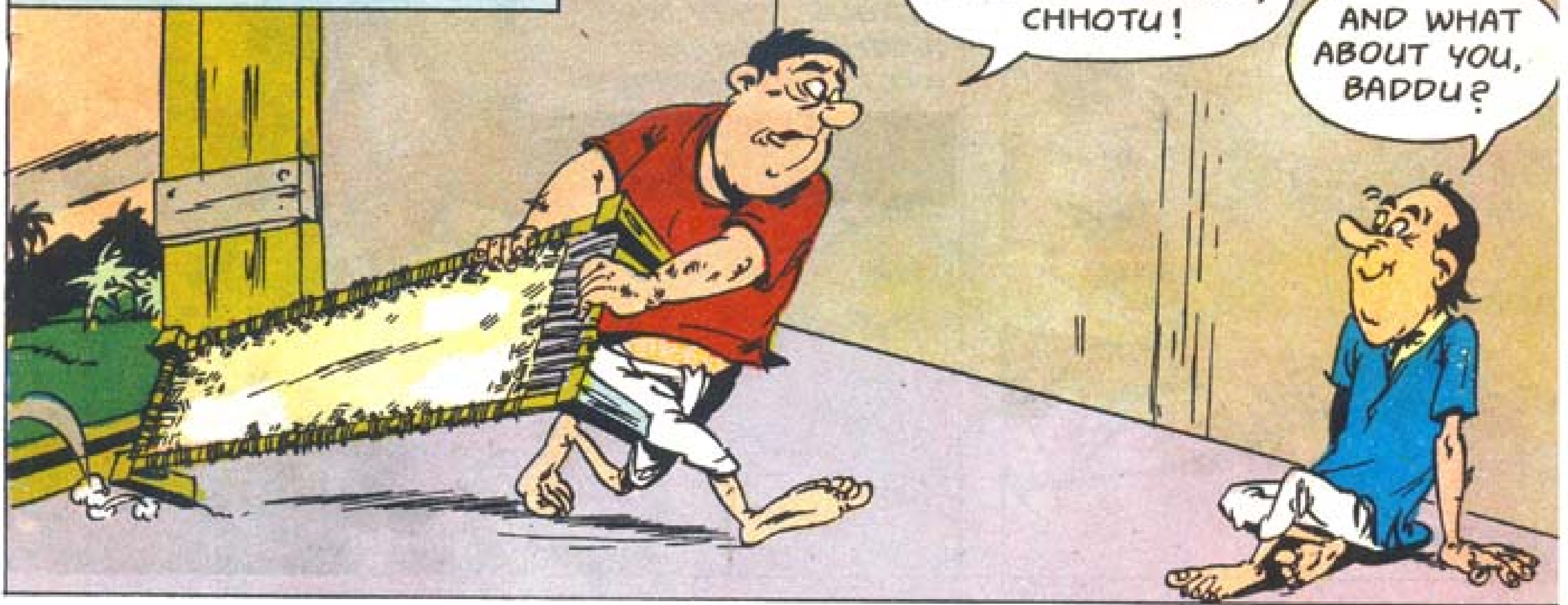

MEANWHILE AT THE ORCHARD —
THAT'S THE EIGHTY-FOURTH BUCKET I'VE EMPTIED HERE!


WHAT'S WRONG WITH THIS SAPLING?
WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?


WHY HAVEN'T YOU WATERED THIS ONE?
I HAVE, I HAVE.


YOU LIAR! GO AND GET SOME WATER FOR IT AT ONCE!
YES, YES SIR!


OUCH! MY BACK!


WHEN THE FRIENDS MET AGAIN THAT EVENING —
WHAT A CUNNING FELLOW YOU ARE, CHHOTU!
AND WHAT ABOUT YOU, BADDU?


ANYWAY, WE'VE BOTH LEARNT A GOOD LESSON.
YES, WE SHOULD BE MORE HONEST WITH EACH OTHER IN FUTURE.

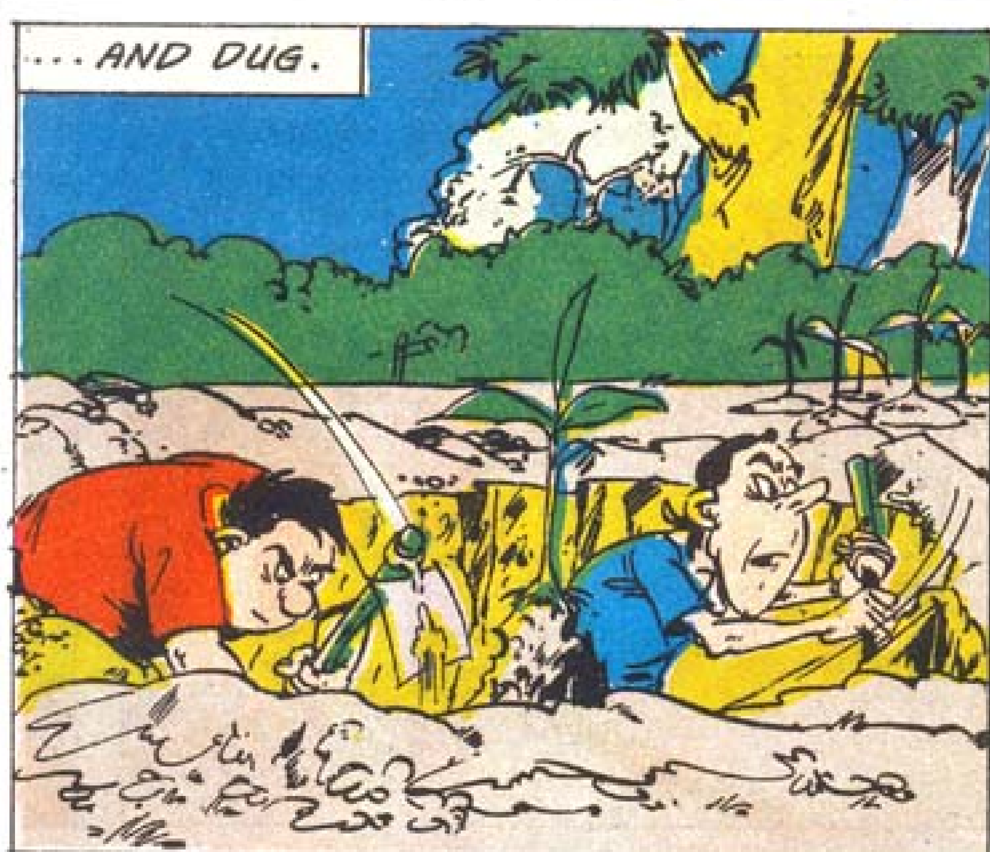

I'M ACHING ALL OVER. WHY DOES THAT LITTLE SAPLING SOAK UP SO MUCH WATER?
THAT'S WHAT PUZZLED ME TOO.


PERHAPS THE GROUND BELOW IT IS HOLLOW.


HOLLOW, DID YOU SAY?
YES.


HOW DID IT BECOME HOLLOW? DO YOU THINK SOMEONE HAS DUG UP THE EARTH AND BURIED SOMETHING THERE!
GOLD PERHAPS!

THE TWO FRIENDS FORGOT THEIR FATIGUE. THEY RAN TO THE ORCHARD WITH THEIR SPADES...

...AND DUG...

...AND DUG.

FINALLY —
IT'S NO USE, CHHOTU. THERE IS NOTHING HERE. WE'VE WASTED OUR TIME.

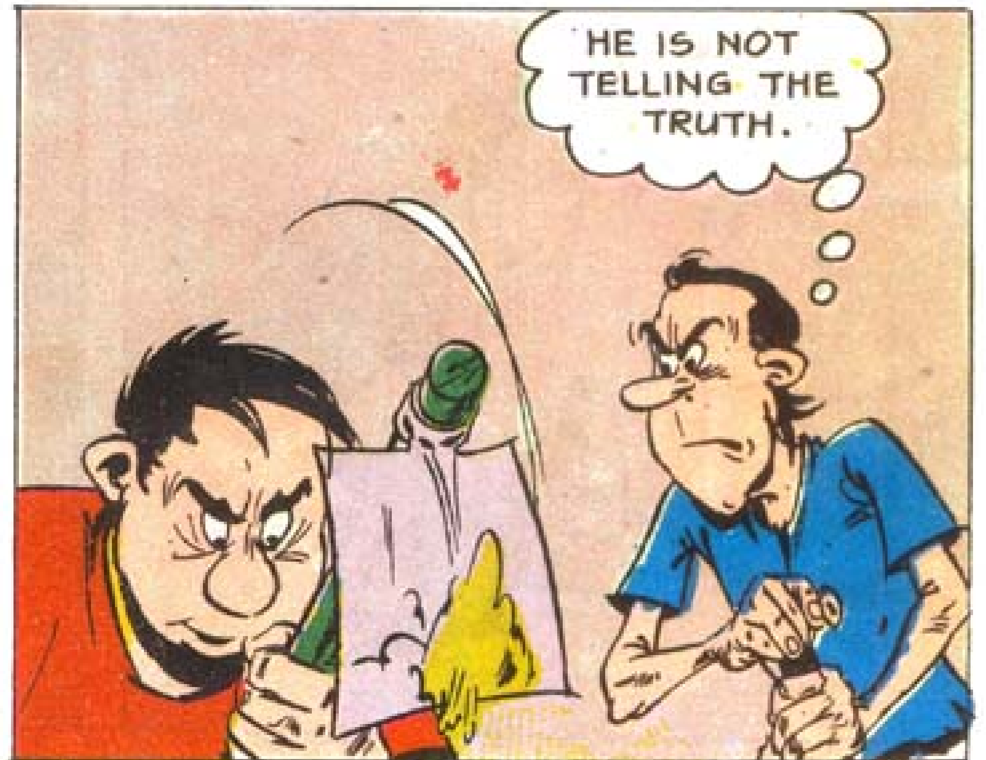
LET'S FILL UP THIS HOLE AND GO HOME.


WHAT'S THIS!

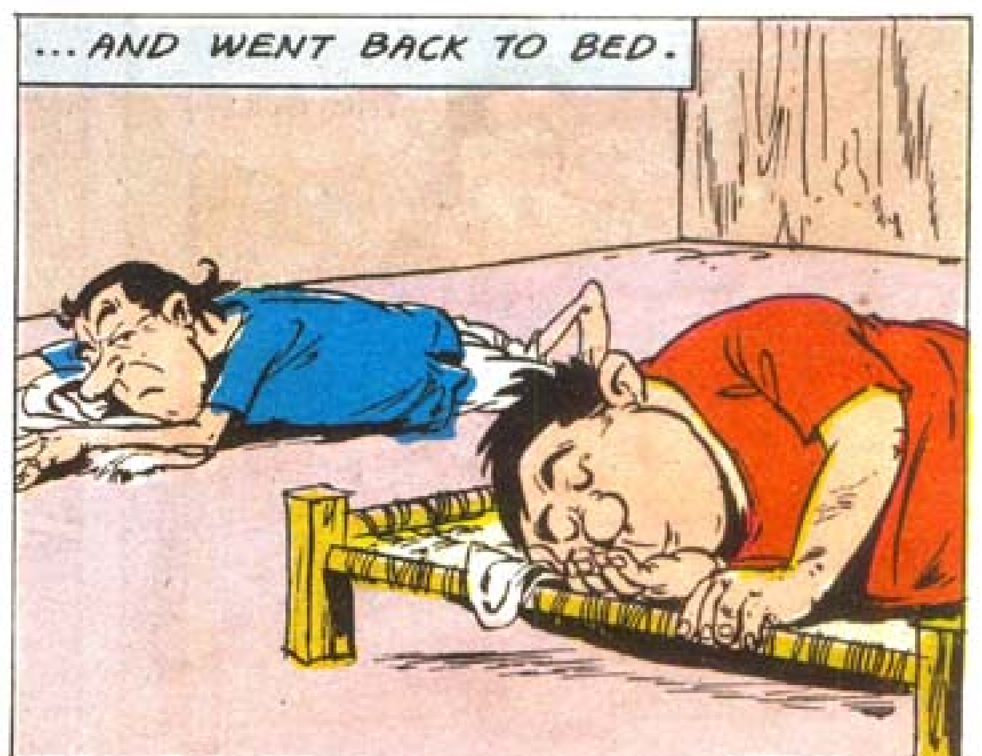

A GOLD MOHUR!

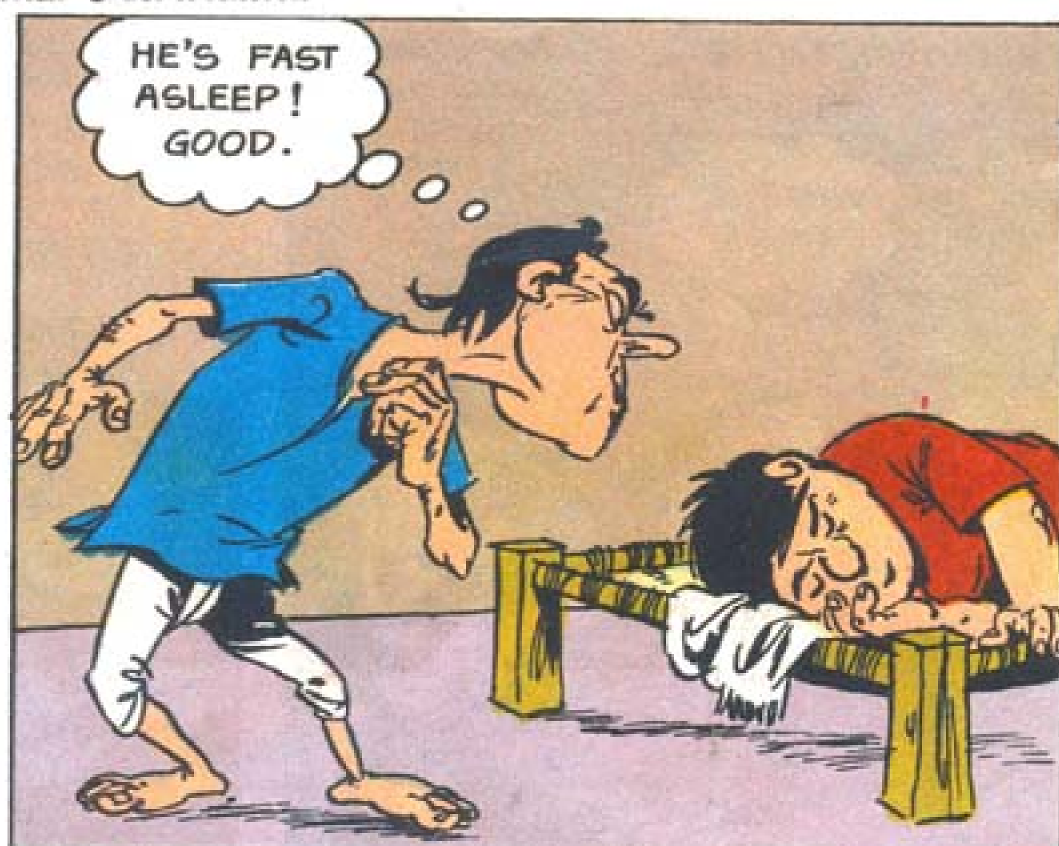
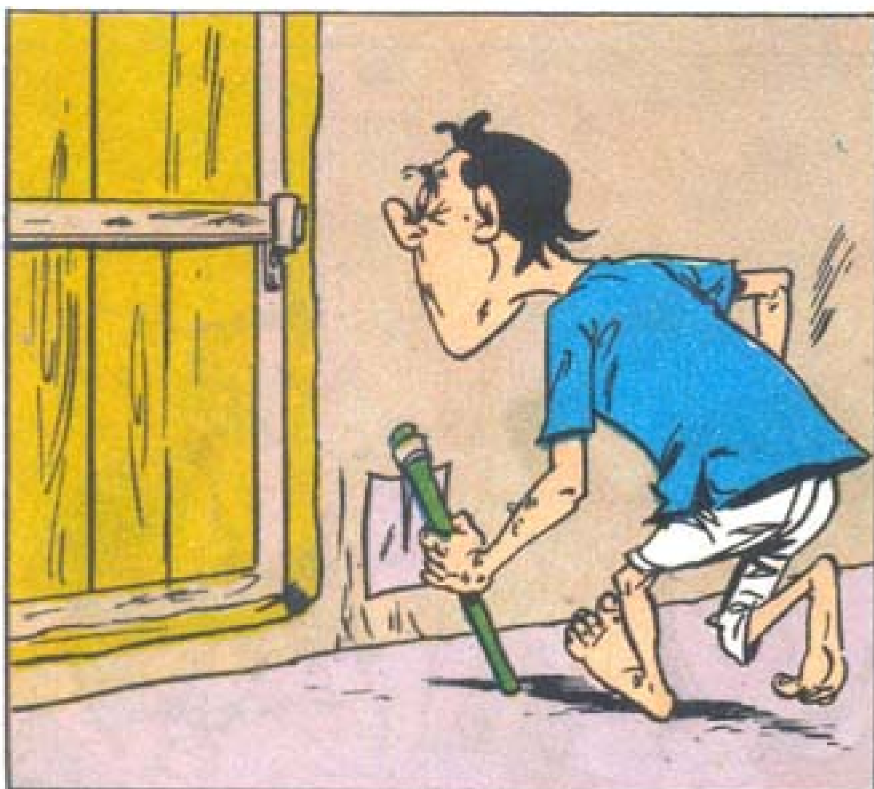

OH! OH! THERE'S A BRASS POT OR SOMETHING HERE.

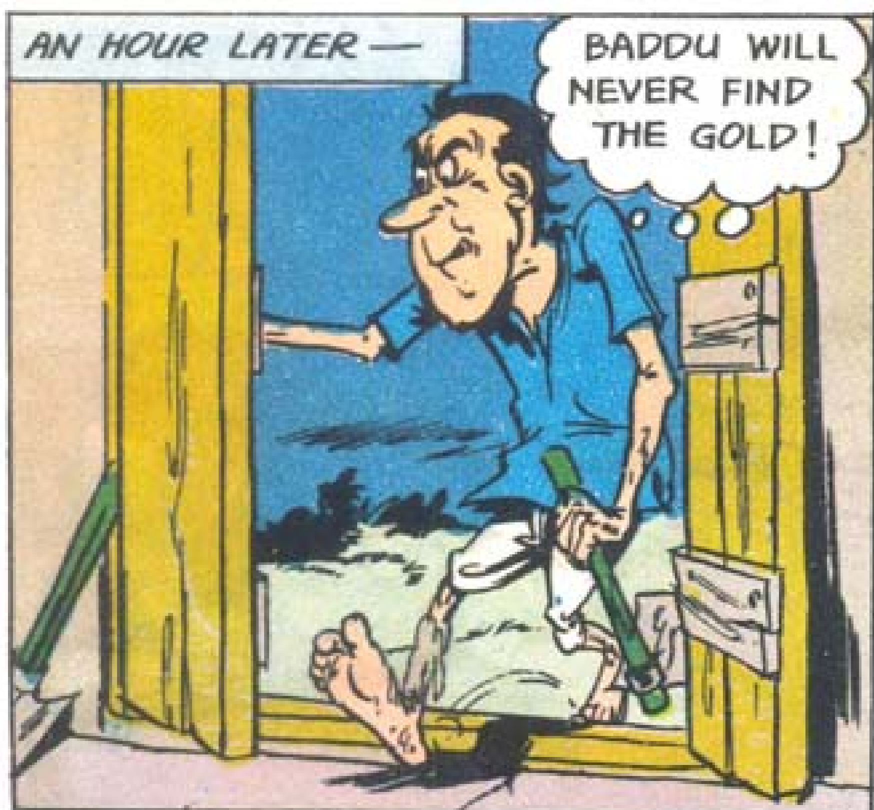

WHAT'S THE MATTER, BADDU? HAVE YOU FOUND SOME-THING?
JUST A PRETTY STONE.


HE IS NOT TELLING THE TRUTH.

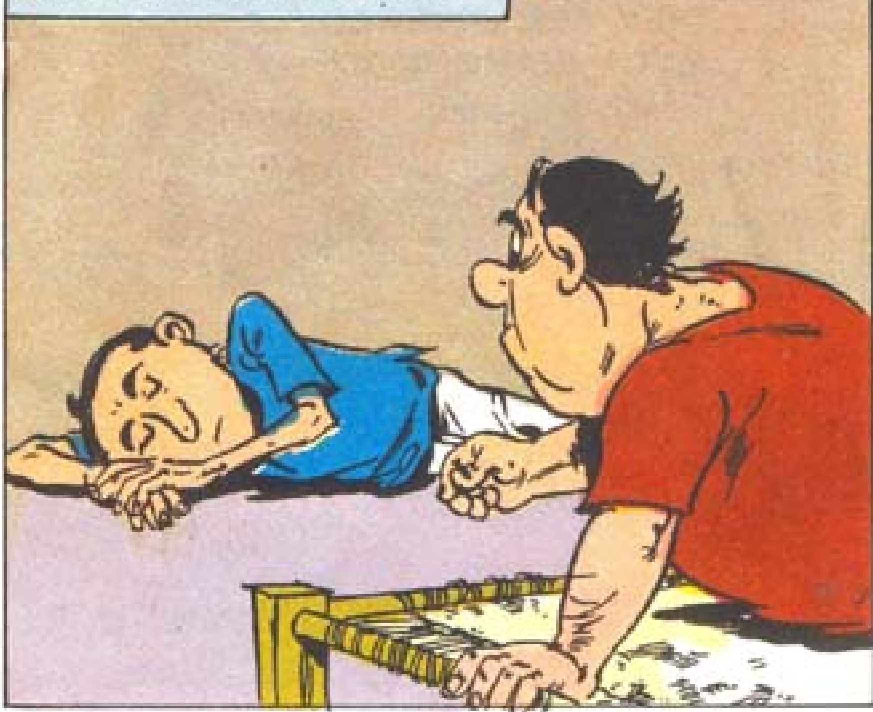

IT WAS ALMOST MIDNIGHT WHEN THEY REACHED HOME ...

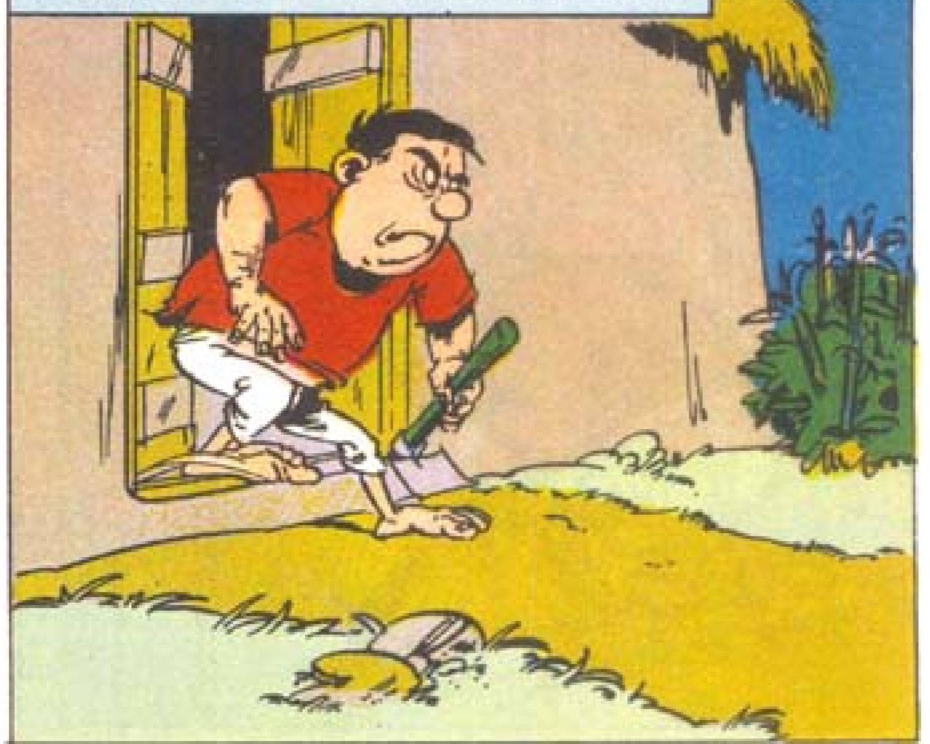

... AND WENT BACK TO BED.

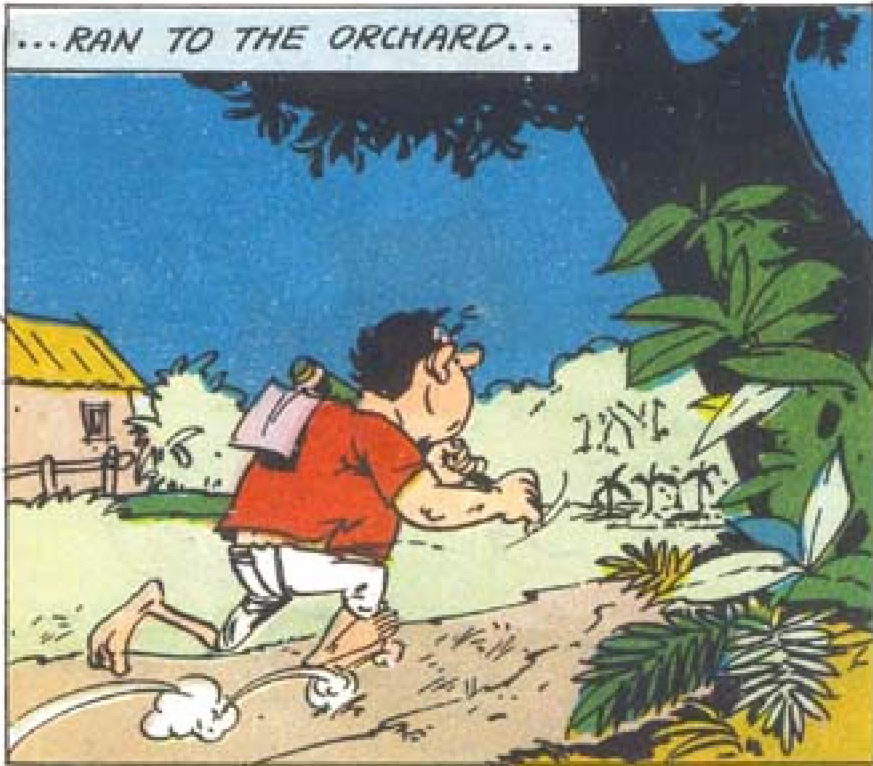

I AM SURE IT WAS NOT A STONE HE WAS LOOKING AT.

HE'S FAST ASLEEP! GOOD.



AN HOUR LATER—
BADDU WILL NEVER FIND THE GOLD!

THANK GOD, HE'S STILL ASLEEP!


AND CHHOTU FELL ASLEEP. JUST THEN BADDU WOKE UP...


...STOLE OUT OF THE HUT...


...RAN TO THE ORCHARD...


...AND DUG UP THE SOIL FROM AROUND THE MANGO SAPLING.


BUT TO HIS DISMAY—
THE POT IS GONE!


I'M SURE IT WAS CHHOTU. HE MUST'VE COME BACK AGAIN WHEN I WAS ASLEEP.


BADDU RUSHED HOME.
THERE HE IS! SLEEPING AS IF NOTHING HAS HAPPENED.


HEY! WHY ARE HIS LEGS SO DIRTY? THEY ARE COVERED WITH SLIME UPTO HIS KNEES.


HE'S BEEN WADING IN THE POOL! HE'S HIDDEN THE TREASURE THERE!

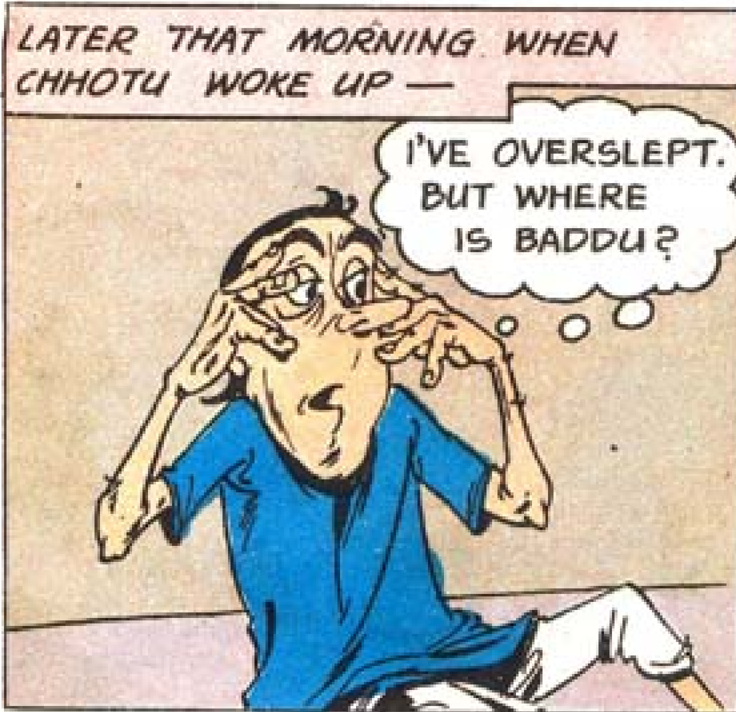

BADDU HEADED FOR THE POOL.

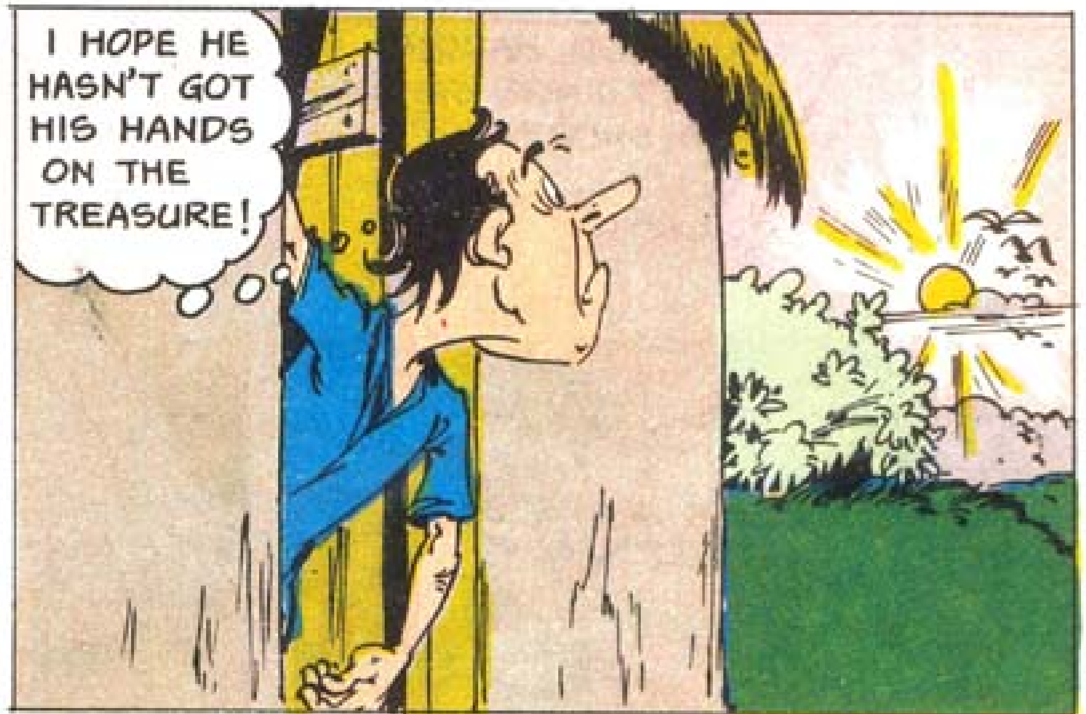

WADING KNEE-DEEP INTO IT...


...HE BEGAN TO SEARCH FOR THE TREASURE.
AH, THERE'S SOMETHING HERE.

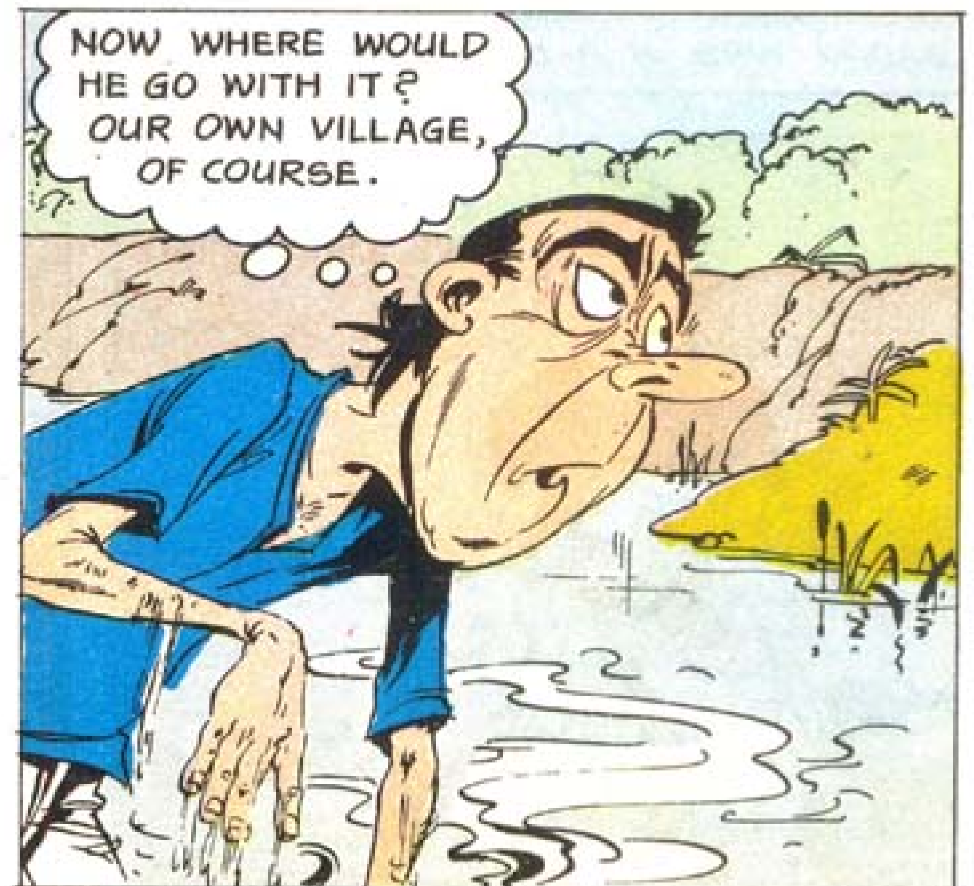

IT'S THE POT!


AHA!


LATER THAT MORNING WHEN CHHOTU WOKE UP —
I'VE OVERSLEPT. BUT WHERE IS BADDU?

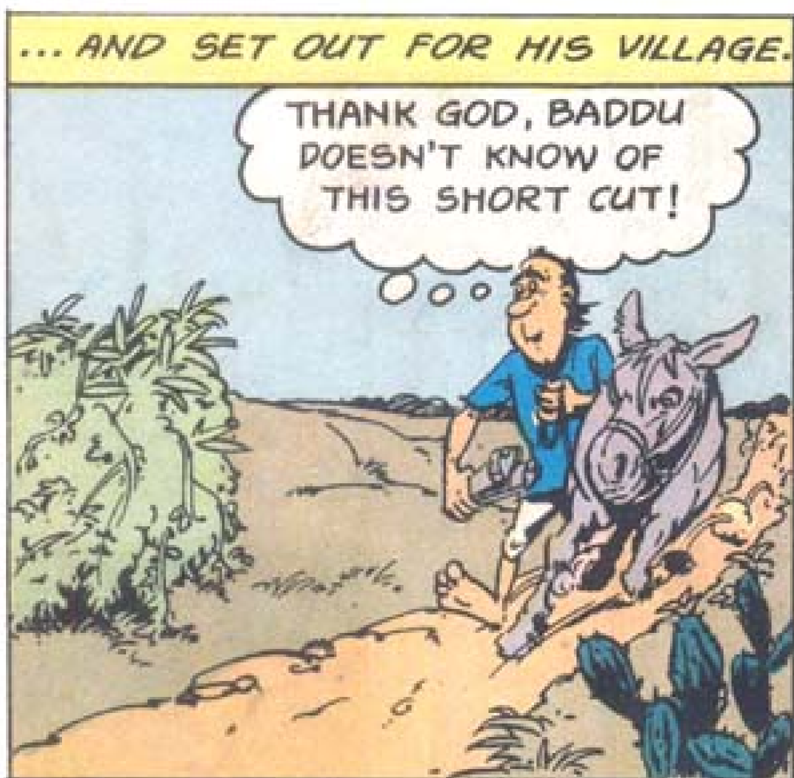

I HOPE HE HASN'T GOT HIS HANDS ON THE TREASURE!

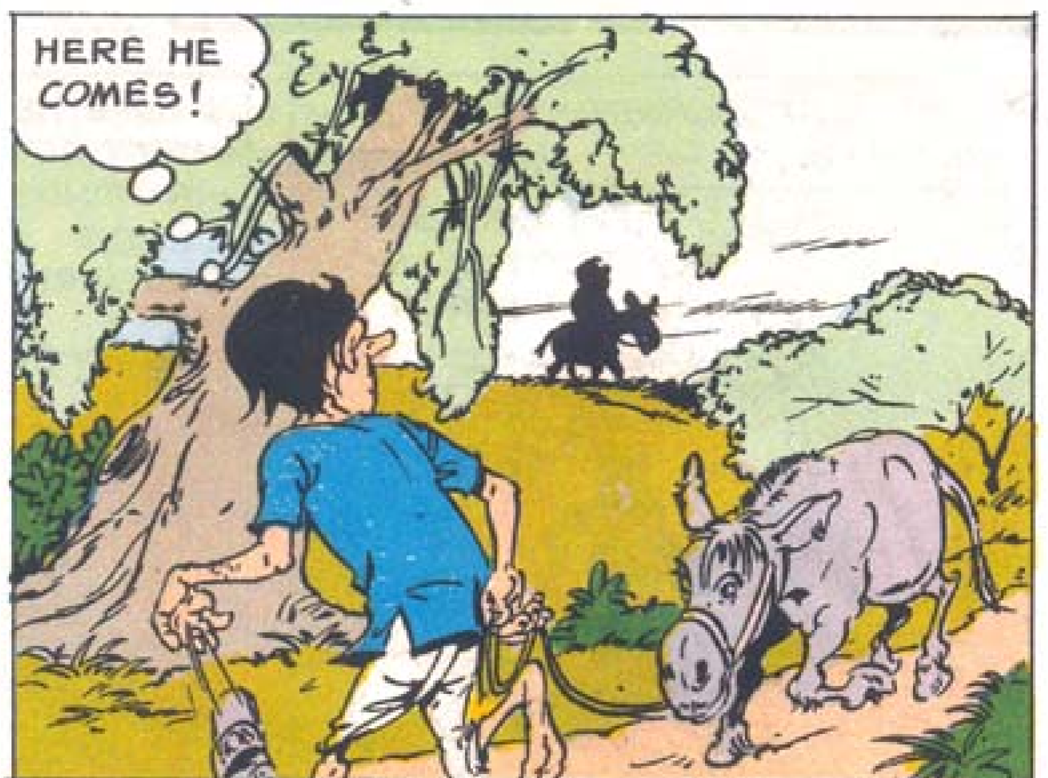

HE HURRIED TO THE POOL.
HE HAS! THE RASCAL!

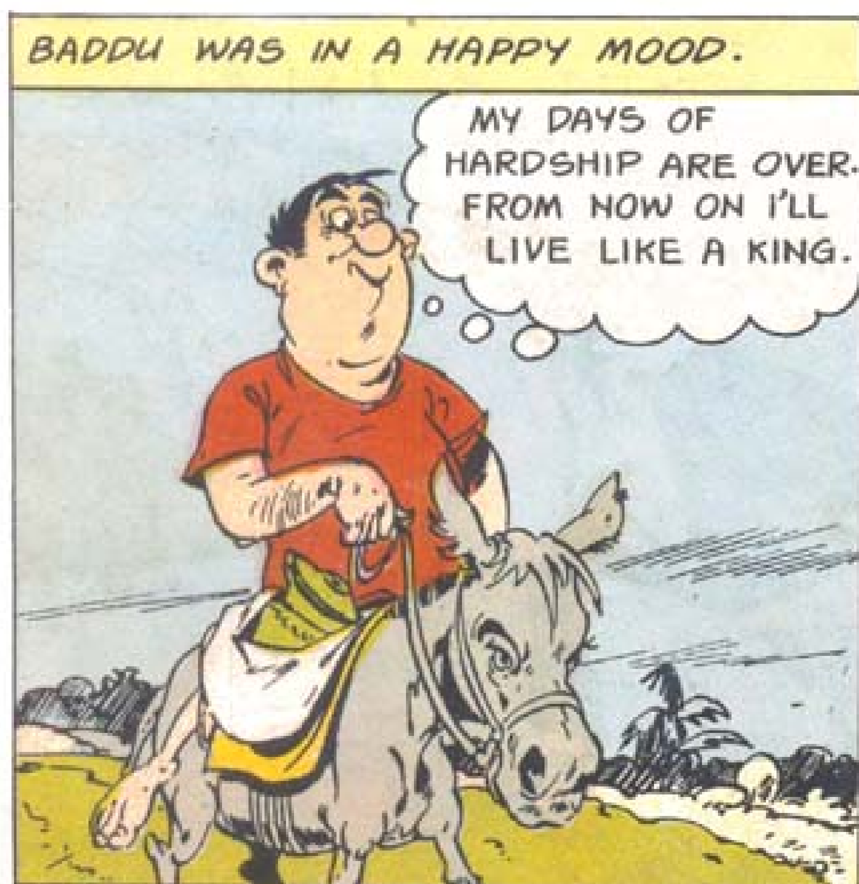

NOW WHERE WOULD HE GO WITH IT? OUR OWN VILLAGE, OF COURSE.


I MUST GET THE GOLD AWAY FROM HIM SOMEHOW.

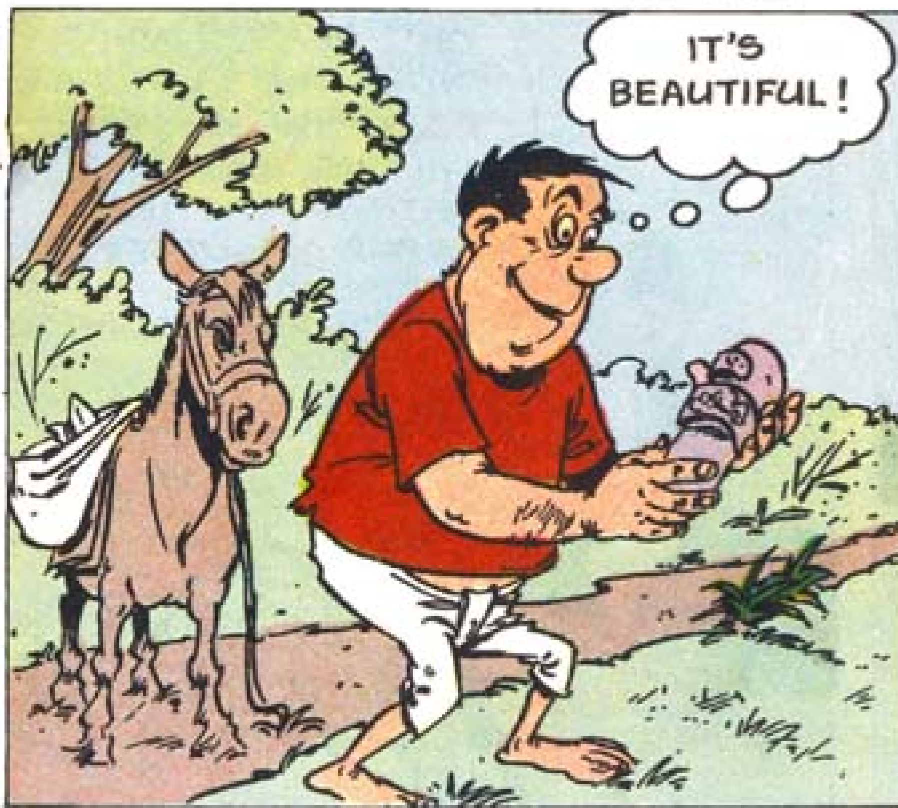

CHHOTU RUSHED TO A SHOP, BOUGHT AN EXQUISITE PAIR OF SLIPPERS...


...AND SET OUT FOR HIS VILLAGE.
THANK GOD, BADDU DOESN'T KNOW OF THIS SHORT CUT!

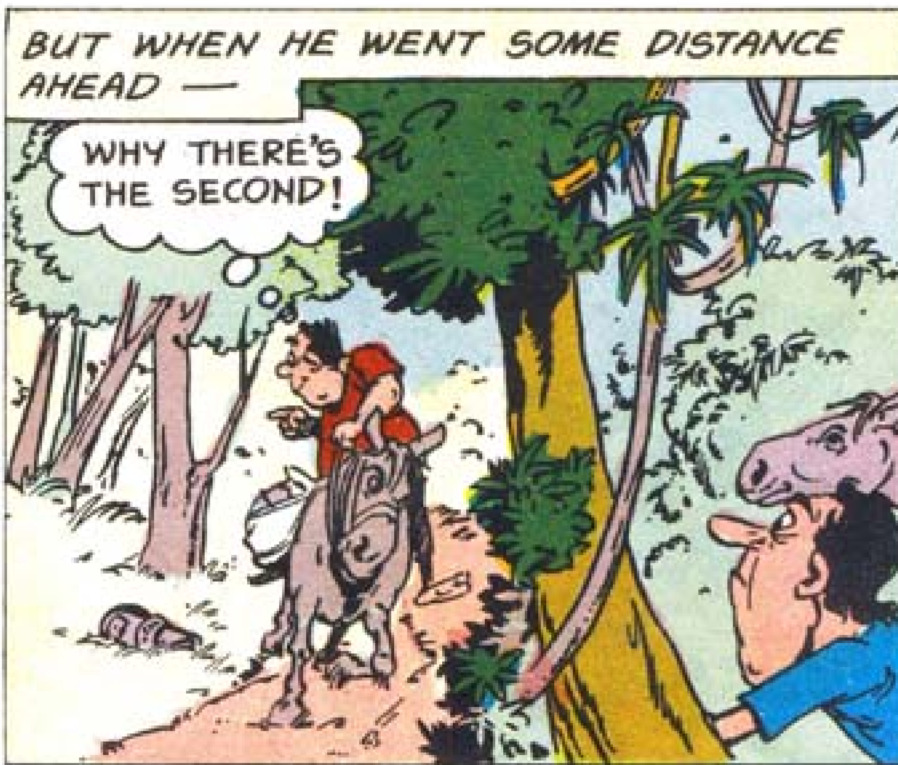

HERE HE COMES!


BADDU WAS IN A HAPPY MOOD.
MY DAYS OF HARDSHIP ARE OVER. FROM NOW ON I'LL LIVE LIKE A KING.


HEY! A SLIPPER!

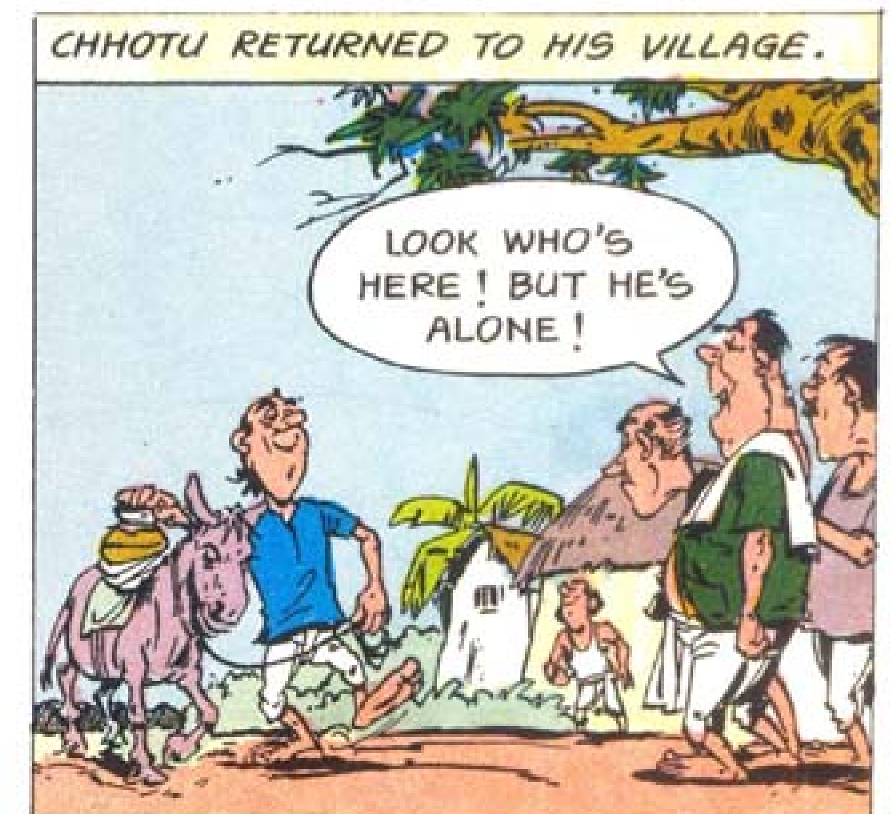

IT'S BEAUTIFUL!

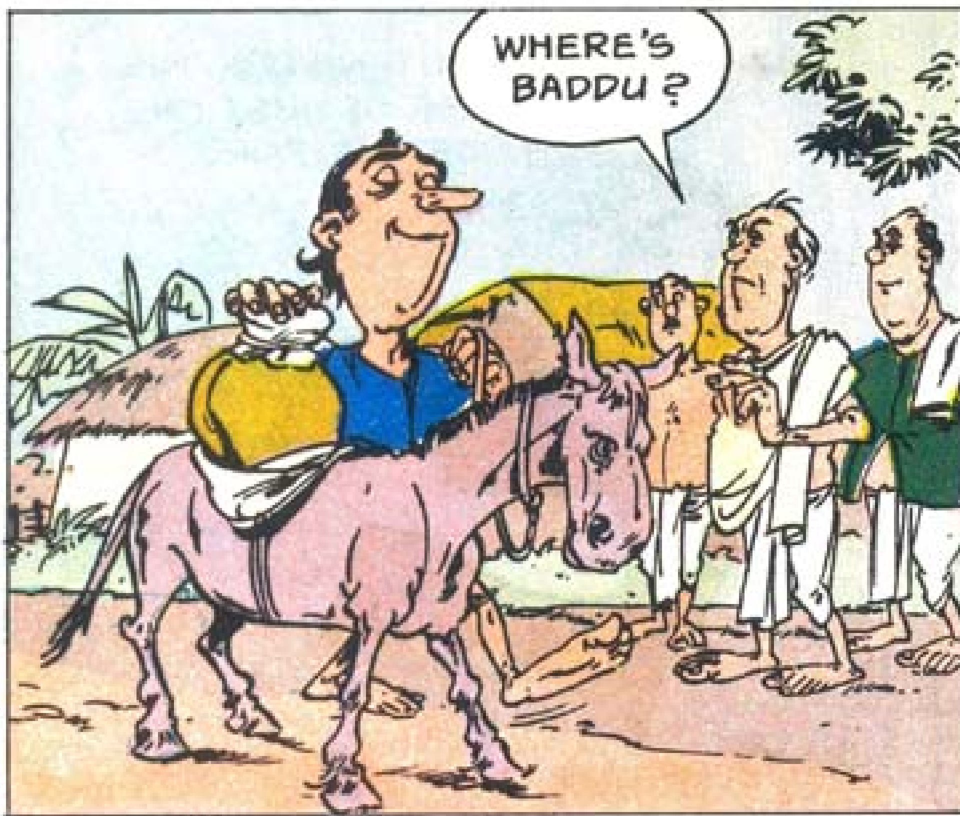

BUT WHAT'S THE USE OF JUST ONE OF THE PAIR?


BUT WHEN HE WENT SOME DISTANCE AHEAD —
WHY THERE'S THE SECOND!

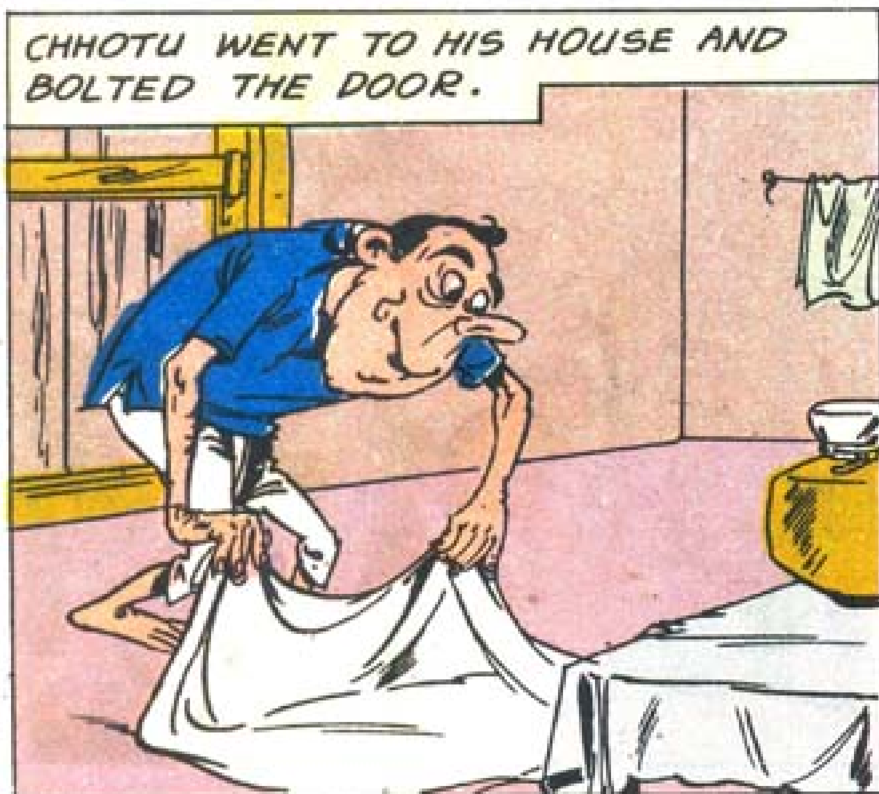

I'LL GO BACK AND GET THE FIRST.
AH! MY PLAN WORKED.


GOOD-BYE, BADDU!


CHHOTU RETURNED TO HIS VILLAGE.
LOOK WHO'S HERE! BUT HE'S ALONE!

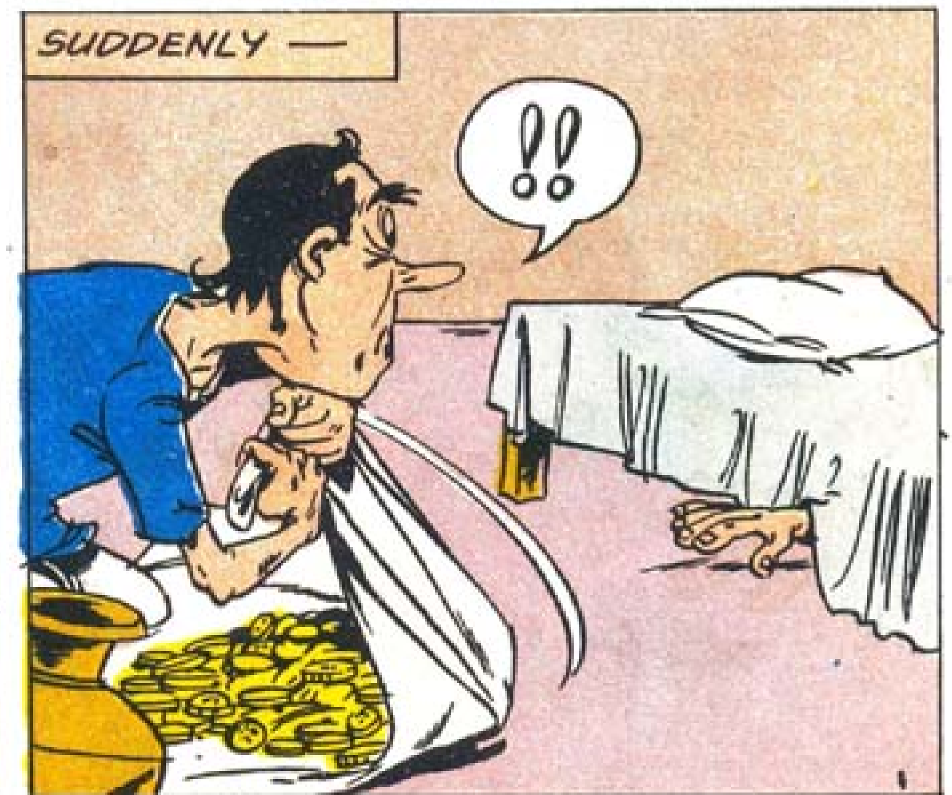

WHERE'S BADDU ?

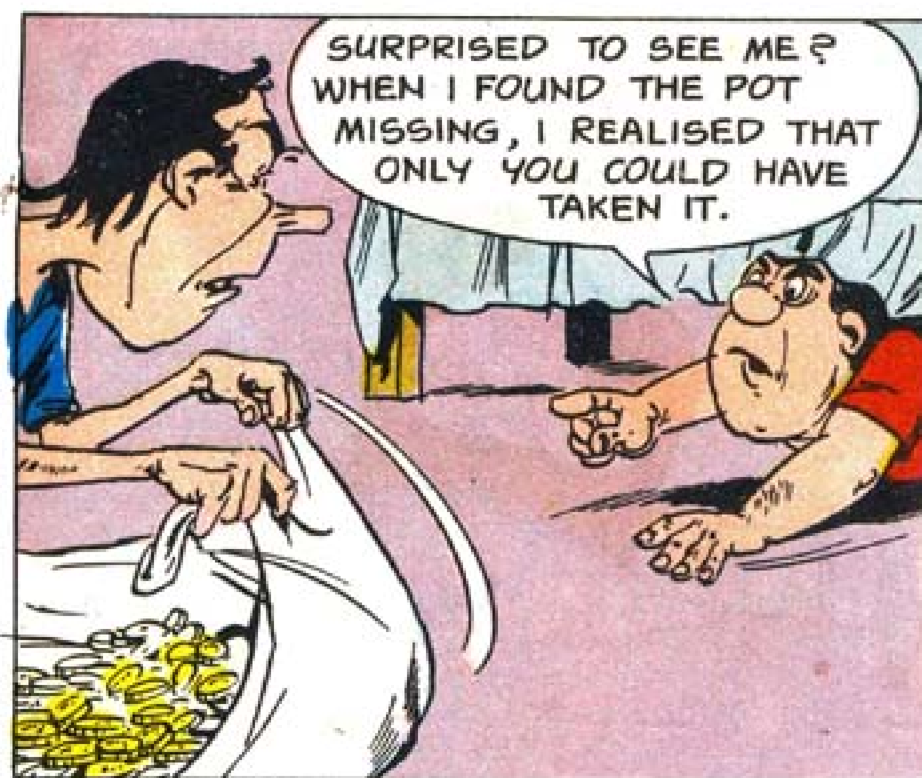

OH, I REALLY DON'T KNOW. THE LAST TIME I SAW HIM HE WAS WALKING AROUND WITH A BEAUTIFUL PAIR OF SLIPPERS.

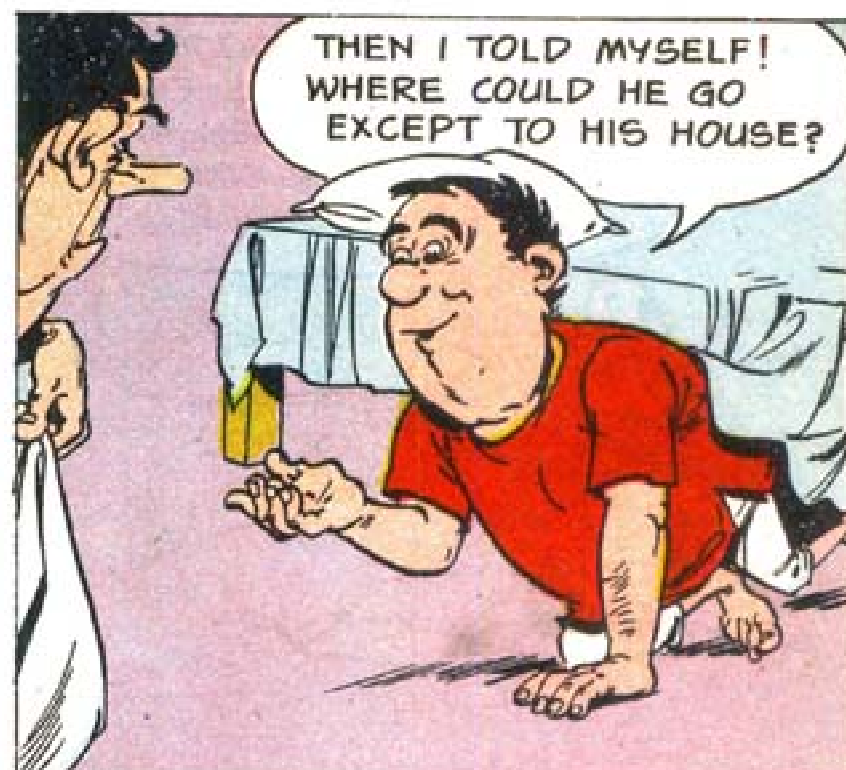

CHHOTU WENT TO HIS HOUSE AND BOLTED THE DOOR.


NOW LET'S SEE HOW MUCH WEALTH I HAVE.




SUDDENLY —
!!


SURPRISED TO SEE ME? WHEN I FOUND THE POT MISSING, I REALISED THAT ONLY YOU COULD HAVE TAKEN IT.

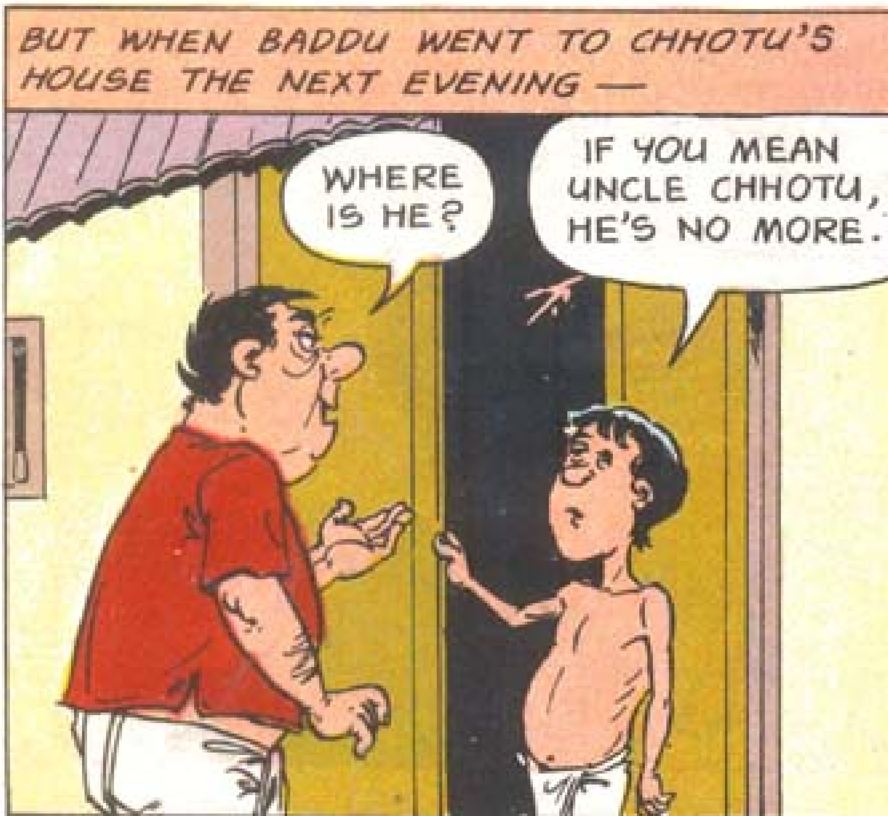

THEN I TOLD MYSELF! WHERE COULD HE GO EXCEPT TO HIS HOUSE?


SO HERE I AM. I GOT IN JUST BEFORE YOU DID. HALF THOSE COINS ARE MINE!

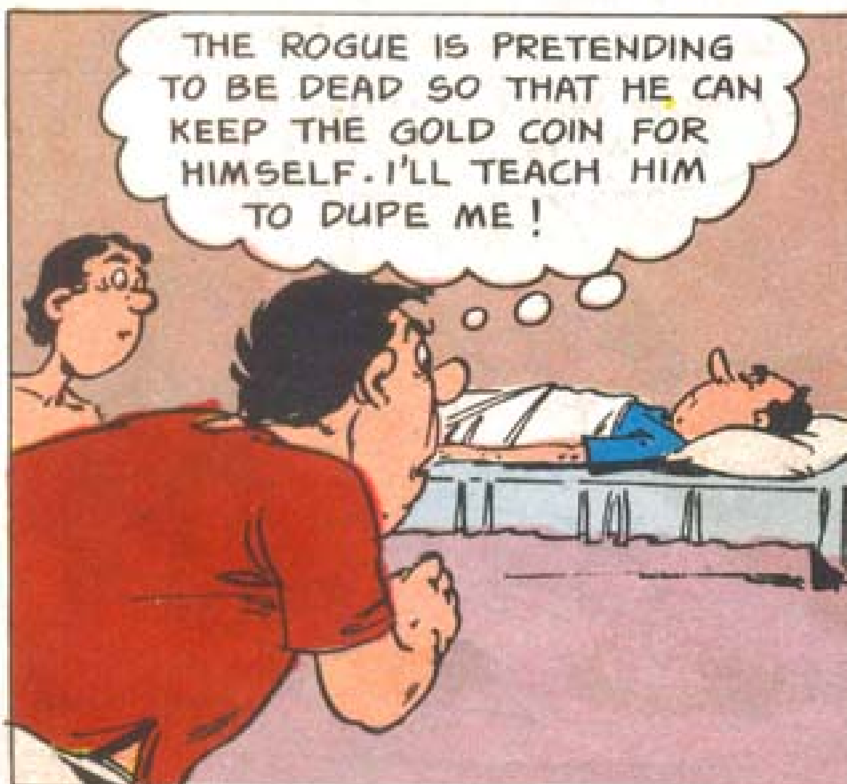

NOW LET'S START DIVIDING THE TREASURE.
OF COURSE! DID YOU THINK I WAS GOING TO KEEP IT ALL FOR MYSELF?


WHEN THEY HAD DIVIDED THE TREASURE EQUALLY, ONE COIN WAS LEFT OVER.
NOW WHAT SHOULD WE DO WITH THIS PIECE?
GIVE IT TO ME.

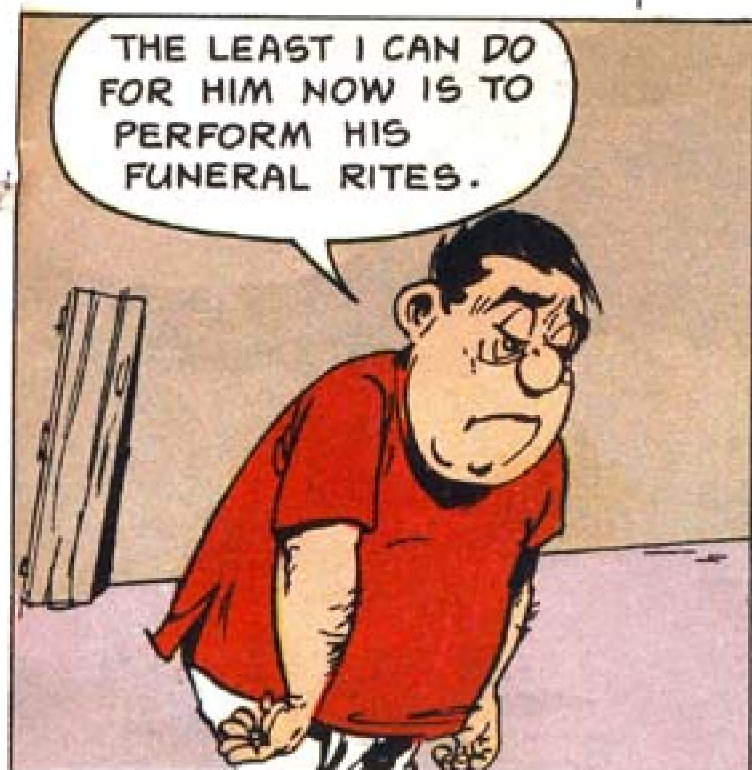

NO. TOMORROW I'LL GO TO THE MARKET, EXCHANGE THIS PIECE FOR SILVER COINS AND THEN WE'LL DIVIDE THE SILVER COINS INTO TWO EQUAL SHARES.
ALL RIGHT. I'LL COME HERE TOMORROW.


BUT WHEN BADDU WENT TO CHHOTU'S HOUSE THE NEXT EVENING —
WHERE IS HE?
IF YOU MEAN UNCLE CHHOTU, HE'S NO MORE.

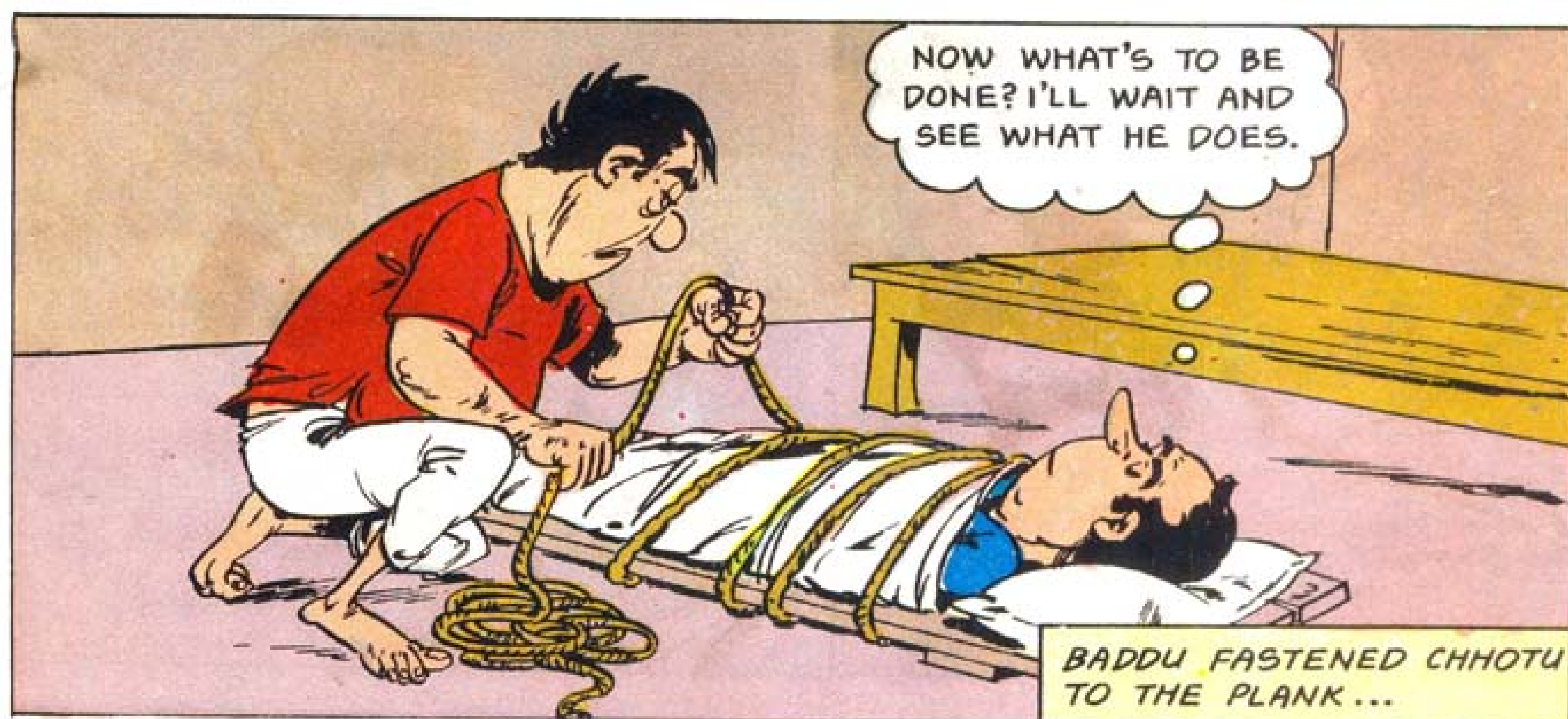

HE'S DEAD.
WHAT!


THE ROGUE IS PRETENDING TO BE DEAD SO THAT HE CAN KEEP THE GOLD COIN FOR HIMSELF. I'LL TEACH HIM TO DUPE ME!


ALAS! HE WAS SUCH A GOOD MAN. HE DID SO MUCH FOR ME.


THE LEAST I CAN DO FOR HIM NOW IS TO PERFORM HIS FUNERAL RITES.


I'LL TIE HIM TO THIS PLANK, TAKE HIM TO THE FOREST AND CREMATE HIM.
OH! OH! I DID NOT FORESEE THIS.


NOW WHAT'S TO BE DONE? I'LL WAIT AND SEE WHAT HE DOES.
BADDU FASTENED CHHOTU TO THE PLANK...


...AND DRAGGED IT TO THE FOREST. IT WAS DARK BY THEN.
I'LL START SHOUT-ING IF HE REALLY TRIES TO BURN ME.

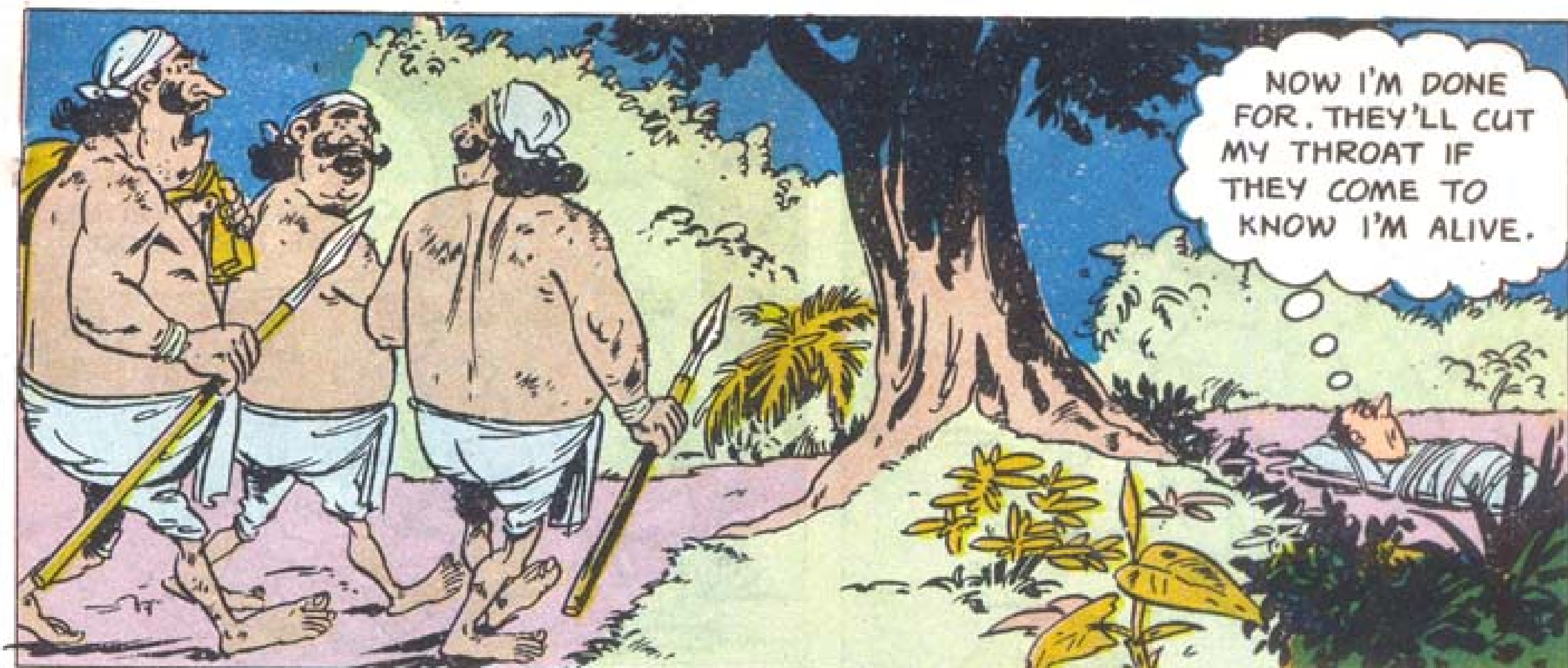

BUT THEN, I'LL HAVE TO SHARE THE GOLD COIN WITH HIM...


THIS IS A GOOD SPOT. I'LL CREMATE HIM HERE.


I'LL GET SOME FIREWOOD AND ... OH!

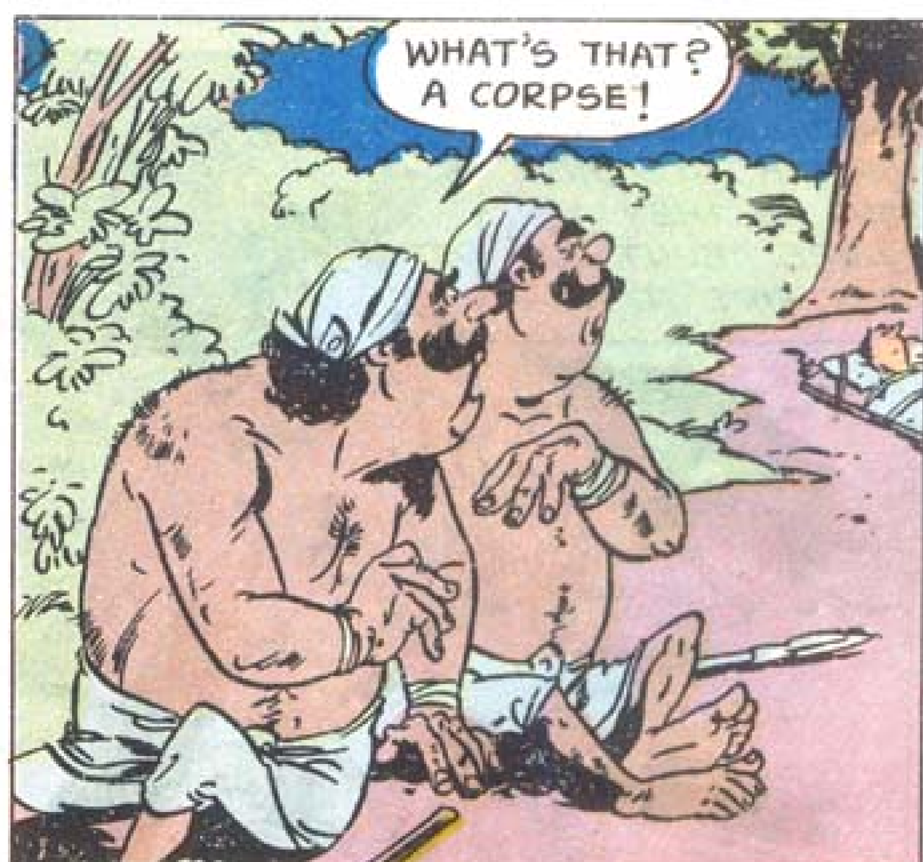

?!
THUD!

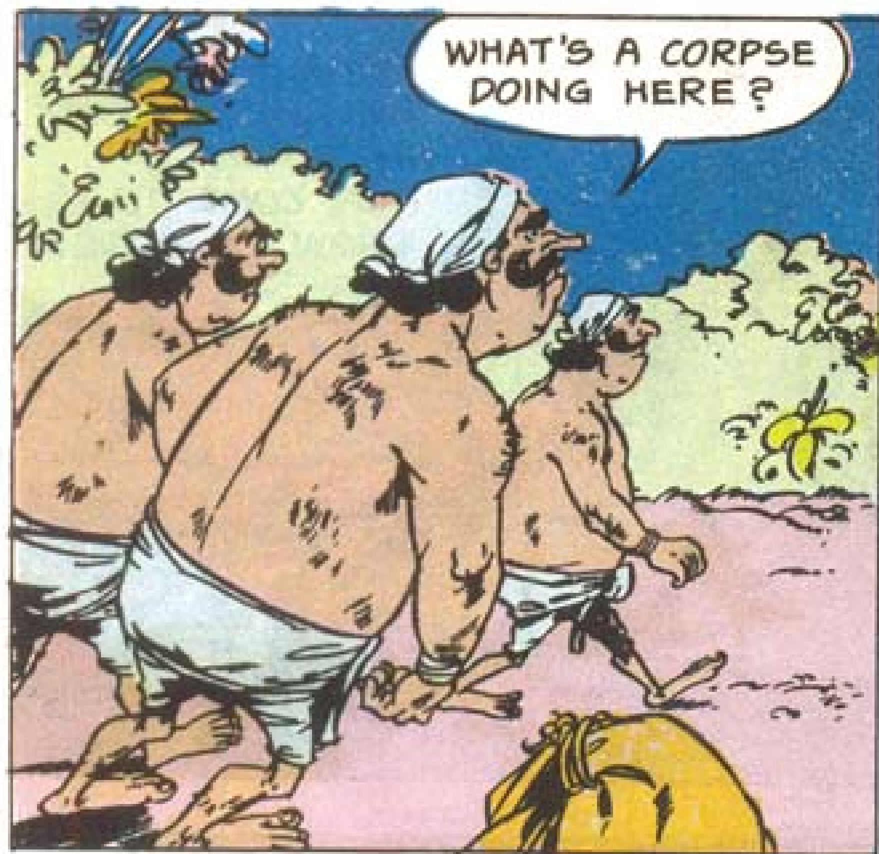

THUGS!


NOW I'M DONE FOR. THEY'LL CUT MY THROAT IF THEY COME TO KNOW I'M ALIVE.


LET'S REST HERE A WHILE, BROTHERS.


WE'VE HAD A GOOD DAY TODAY.
?

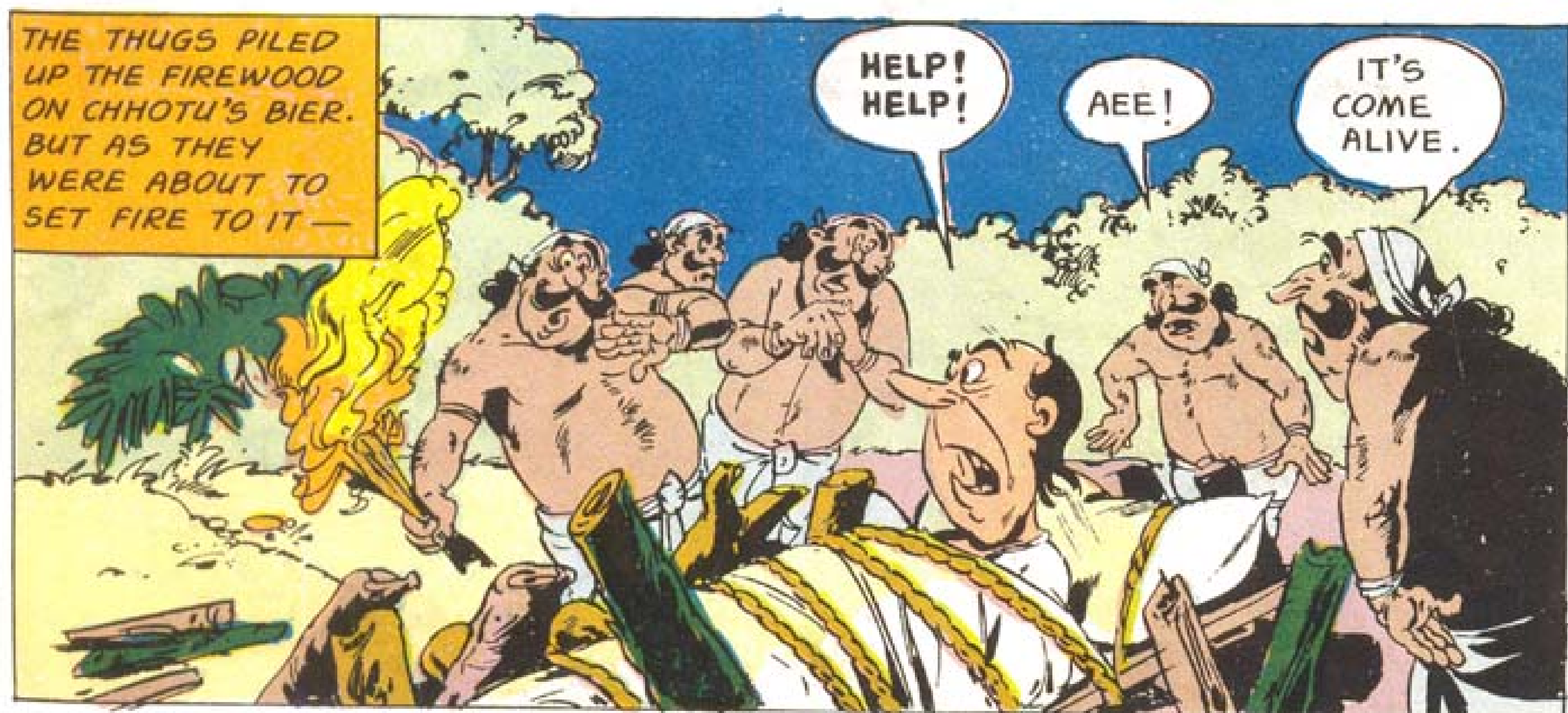

WHAT'S THAT? A CORPSE!


WHAT'S A CORPSE DOING HERE?


LET'S DO OUR GOOD DEED FOR THE DAY. WE'LL CREMATE IT. GATHER SOME FIREWOOD.
ULP!


I WISH THEY WOULD MIND THEIR OWN BUSINESS. NOW I'M IN REAL TROUBLE.


POOR CHHOTU! I WISH I COULD HELP HIM SOMEHOW.

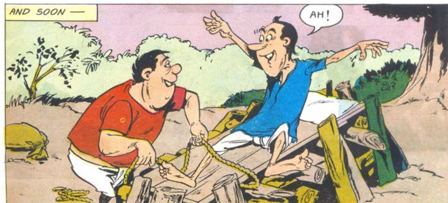

THE THUGS PILED UP THE FIREWOOD ON CHHOTU'S BIER. BUT AS THEY WERE ABOUT TO SET FIRE TO IT —
HELP! HELP!
AEE!
IT'S COME ALIVE.


JUST THEN BADDU LOST HIS BALANCE AND FELL.
YAAAAAAAAH!
G-GHOSTS!


RUN BROTHERS! THIS PLACE IS HAUNTED.
HE-LP!


AREN'T WE GREAT, CHHOTU? WE FRIGHTENED THEM OUT OF THEIR WITS!
YES.


THEY TOOK OFF IN SUCH A HURRY THAT THEY LEFT THEIR LOOT BEHIND.
THIS IS OUR LUCKY DAY. NOW UNTIE ME, WILL YOU?

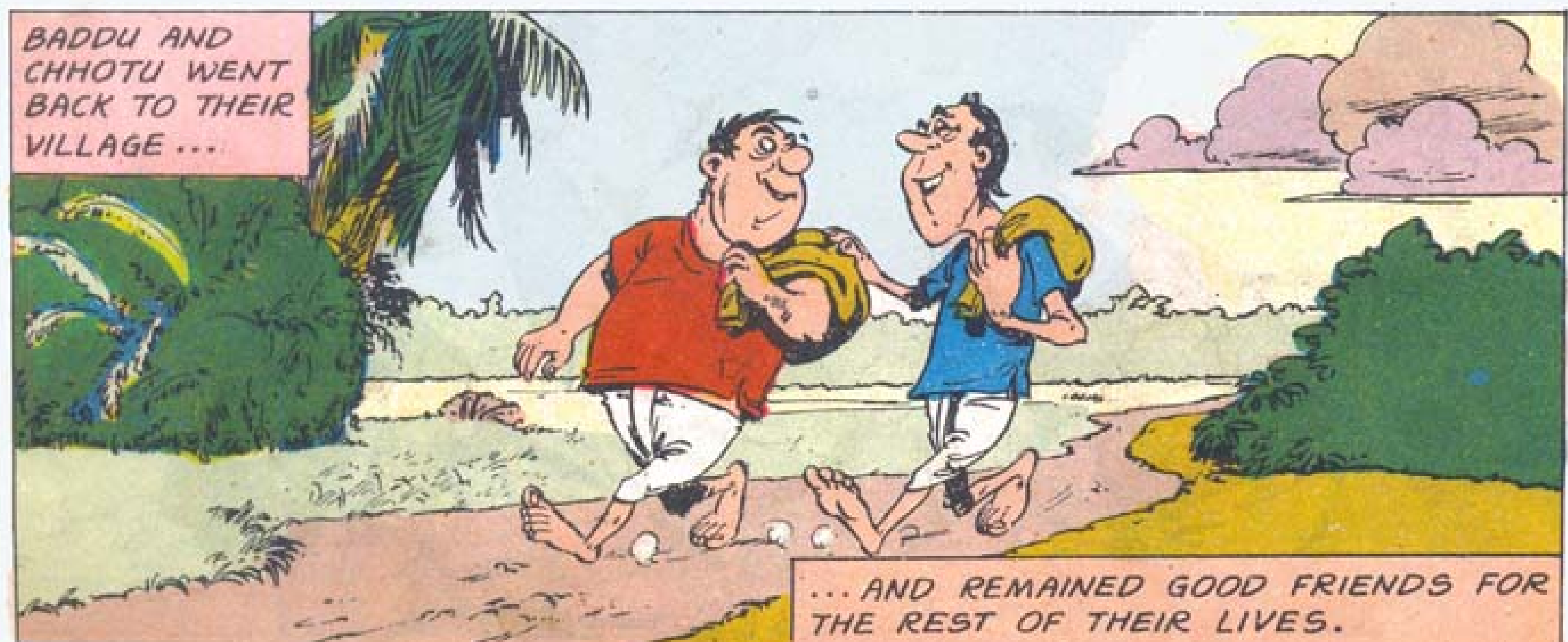

AND SOON —
AH!


NOW LET'S SEE WHAT'S IN THE SACK.


GOLD COINS!
LET'S DIVIDE THE PILE EQUALLY.


WHEN THEY HAD FINISHED, THEY FOUND ONE ODD PIECE.
NOW WHAT SHOULD WE DO WITH THIS?


YOU ALREADY HAVE ONE EXTRA COIN FROM THE TREASURE WE FOUND IN THE ORCHARD. SO THIS ONE COMES TO ME.
FAIR ENOUGH.


BADDU AND CHHOTU WENT BACK TO THEIR VILLAGE ...
... AND REMAINED GOOD FRIENDS FOR THE REST OF THEIR LIVES.


Butterfly, butterfly come and see
My garden, my flowers and good old me
Butterfly, butterfly here are some Gems
For you, for me and all our friends.
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December 1, 1981
Regd. No: MH-BY-South-731
Registered with the Registrar of Newspapers for India
Registration No: R.N. 31757/70